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BRIDE of the WATER GOD

Bride of the Water God

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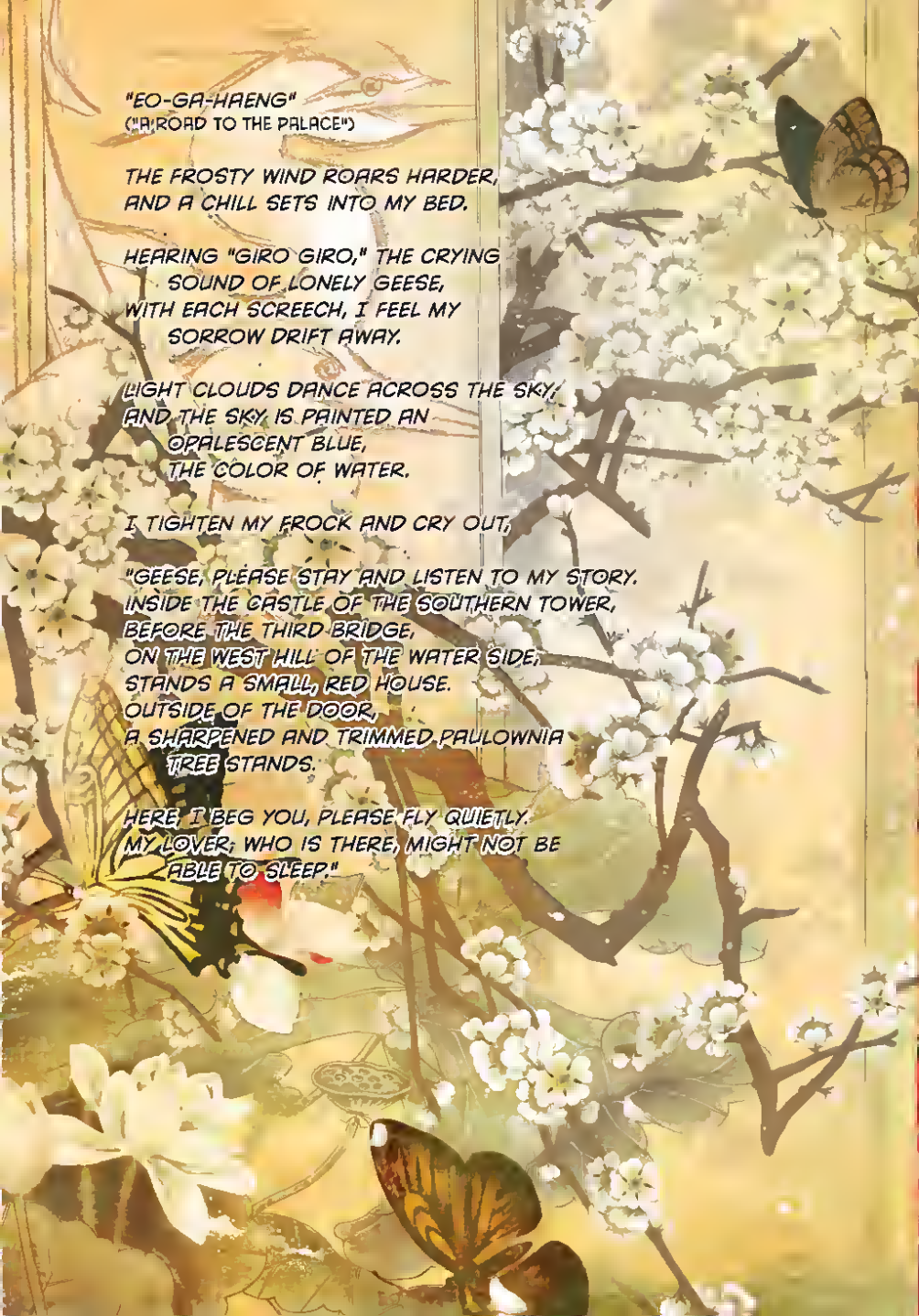


"EO-GA-HAENG"
("A ROAD TO THE PALACE")

THE FROSTY WIND ROARS HARDER,
AND A CHILL SETS INTO MY BED.

HEARING "GIRO GIRO," THE CRYING
SOUND OF LONELY GEESE,
WITH EACH SCREECH, I FEEL MY
SORROW DRIFT AWAY.

LIGHT CLOUDS DANCE ACROSS THE SKY,
AND THE SKY IS PAINTED AN
OPALESCENT BLUE,
THE COLOR OF WATER.

I TIGHTEN MY FROCK AND CRY OUT,

"GEESE, PLEASE STAY AND LISTEN TO MY STORY.
INSIDE THE CASTLE OF THE SOUTHERN TOWER,
BEFORE THE THIRD BRIDGE,
ON THE WEST HILL OF THE WATER SIDE,
STANDS A SMALL, RED HOUSE.
OUTSIDE OF THE DOOR,
A SHARPENED AND TRIMMED PAULOWNIA
TREE STANDS.

HERE, I BEG YOU, PLEASE FLY QUIETLY.
MY LOVER, WHO IS THERE, MIGHT NOT BE
ABLE TO SLEEP."

"CHO-CHO-GYEONWU-SEONG"
("GYEONWU STAR, FAR AWAY")

FAR, FAR AWAY GYEONWU STAR
VIVIDLY BRIGHT JIKNYEO STAR

"CHAKK-KA CHAKK-KA," THE SOUND OF
HER WEAVING,
HER PRETTY, WHITE HANDS DANCING.

SHE CAN'T FINISH HER WEAVING,
AS THOUGHTS OF HER LOVER
DANCE ABOUT HER MIND
TEARS COME DOWN HER FACE,
AS THE RAIN FALLS OUTSIDE.

THE CLEAN WATER OF THE MILKY WAY
- ISN'T THAT DEEP,
WHEN DID WE LAST SEE EACH OTHER?
A SHALLOW RIVER RUNS BETWEEN US...
BUT WE ARE UNABLE TO EMBRACE,
PITIFULLY STARING AT EACH OTHER,
UNABLE TO SPEAK.

"GEUM-SA"*, A GISAENG

THE MOON IS BRIGHT ON JANG-CHOONG-DAN,
AND MY DEAD LOVER IS TALKING ABOUT OUR PAST.
IF I KNEW THAT MY MELANCHOLY WOULD RUN THIS DEEP TODAY,
I WOULD'VE PREFERRED TO HAVE DIED WITH HIM THEN, WHEN WE WERE IN LOVE.

*GEUM-SA
A KOREAN GEISHA.

WHAT?
FATHER... DID YOU REALLY TRADE ME FOR MONEY?
YOU DID THAT *AGAIN*?
EVEN IF YOU ARE MY FATHER... IF THIS IS TRUE... THEN THERE'S NO WAY I CAN FORGIVE YOU.
WHAT?

WHAT AN UNGRATEFUL LITTLE THING! I'VE RAISED AND FED YOU, AND WHAT DID YOU SAY? YOU CAN'T FORGIVE ME? WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO ME, THEN? DO YOU MEAN TO DEFY ME?! YOU MOUTHY LITTLE BRAT!
I CAN'T STAND THIS ANYMORE! I BECAME HABAEK'S BRIDE FOR MY FAMILY-- NOT BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID OF YOU!
I WON'T LIVE MY LIFE PUTTING UP WITH THIS!
YOU WILL, YOU LITTLE BITCH!
FWOOSH
SLAP
!!

DONG-YOUNG!
OH, NO! DONG-YOUNG-NIM!
WHSH
IT WASN'T MY FAULT!
WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?
PLEASE DON'T HIT SOAH.
LISTEN, THIS IS A FAMILY MATTER-- PLEASE STAY OUT OF IT.
I PROPOSED TO SOAH...
...SO I NOW HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE INVOLVED IN HER MATTERS.

OH, MY! I AM HONORED TO HEAR THIS.
SHE IS OF SUCH LOWLY BIRTH-- IS THAT OKAY WITH YOU?
OF COURSE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
AND... IT'S ODD TO CALL IT A COST, BUT...
...I THINK IT'D BE RIGHT TO GIVE HER FAMILY SOME MONEY WHEN YOU TAKE SOAH FROM US.
DAD!

PLIP
I'LL MARRY YOU.
SPOOSH

YOU'RE NOT GONNA DO ANYTHING, HABAEK?
WILL YOU JUST GIVE UP ON HER LIKE THIS?
I JUST WANTED TO WIN A WAGER.
I DON'T CARE NOW.

WHAT WAS SHE TO YOU?
WAS SHE JUST ONE OF YOUR MANY BRIDES? OR--
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT IT WAS ODD THAT SHE WASN'T AFRAID OF THIS STRANGE PLACE.
SHE WAS ACTING ALL *BRAVE*, BUT CALLING OUT FOR HER MOTHER WHEN SHE SLEPT. SHE WAS SOMETHING PECULIAR TO WATCH, THAT'S ALL.
THEN... ARE YOU SURE YOU'LL BE OKAY IF SHE BECOMES SOMEONE ELSE'S BRIDE?
OF COURSE.

REALLY?
WHY DO YOU CARE, ANYWAY ?!
IF YOU'RE SO SURE--
OH, I'M JUST CURIOUS.
ISN'T IT A BIG DEAL THAT YOU WERE INTERESTED IN ANOTHER WOMAN INSTEAD OF NAKBIN?

AND ISN'T IT PATHETIC TO LOSE YOUR NEW LADY TO A HUMAN?
DON'T BE SO SAD. PERHAPS SHE DIDN'T FIND YOU ALL THAT CHARMING AFTER ALL. WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?
움찔
FLINCH
!
HEH HEH! THIS IS GOING TO BE FUN...

끼익-
KRIK
KREEE...
MOM...?
WHAT'S WRONG, SORAH? CAN'T YOU SLEEP?

MOM, WHY DID YOU MARRY DAD?

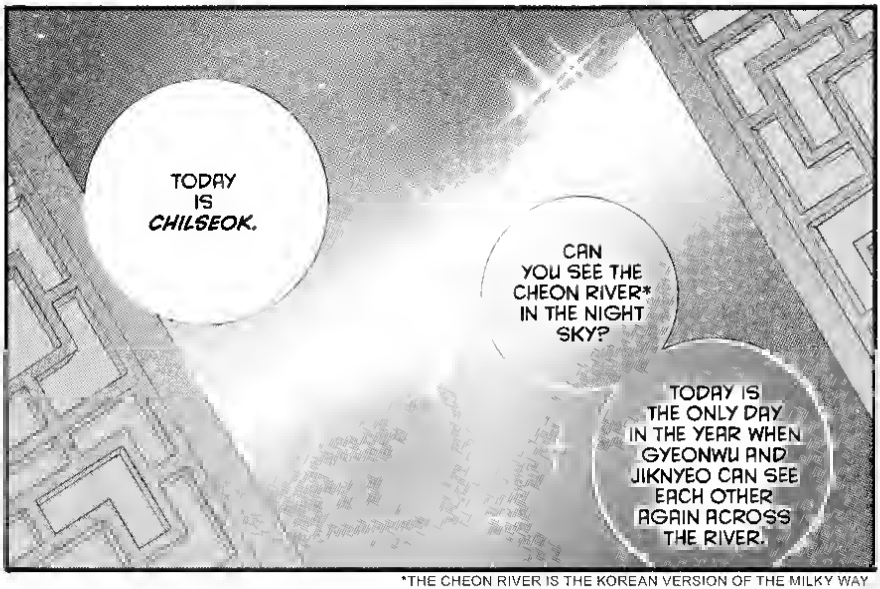
WHO HAS ANY SAY IN MARRIAGE? PEOPLE ARE JUST FORCED DOWN THE PATH THEIR PARENTS ARRANGE FOR THEM.
THAT'S LIFE. THAT'S THE WAY PEOPLE HAVE TO LIVE.

YOU'VE BEEN UNHAPPY BECAUSE OF THAT, HAVEN'T YOU?
FREEZE
SOAH. I KNOW YOU HATE YOUR FATHER.
I FEEL SORRY FOR ALL THE THINGS YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH BECAUSE OF YOUR FATHER.

WELL, I JUST REALIZED THAT THE *CHILSEOK FESTIVAL** IS TODAY.
*CHILSEOK IS A KOREAN TRADITIONAL FESTIVAL. LITERALLY "SEVENTH NIGHT." THAT FALLS ON EVERY JULY SEVENTH BY THE LUNAR CALENDAR. IT IS A PERIOD WHERE THE HEAT STARTS TO PASS AWAY AND THE MONSOON SEASON BEGINS
CHILSEOK... THE ONE DAY OUT OF THE YEAR...
...WHEN THE TWO LOVERS, GYEONWU AND JIKNYEO, CAN SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN...
SOAH... YOU WILL BE HAPPY.
YOU WILL FIND HAPPINESS AS A BRIDE.

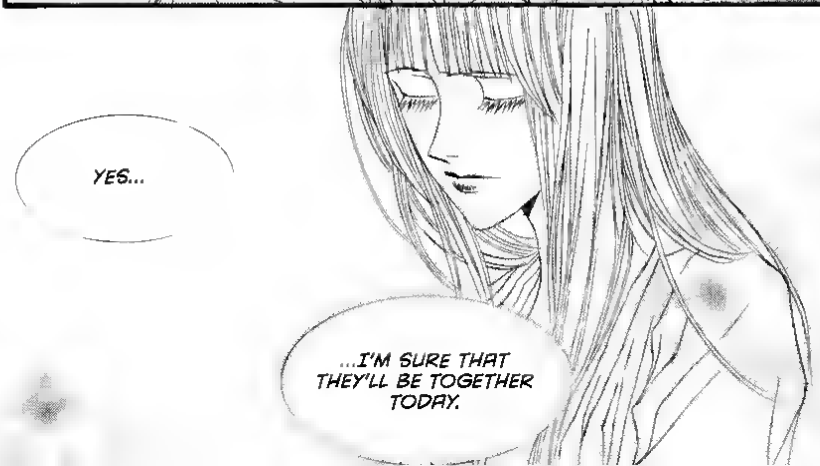
YES...
...YES, MOM...

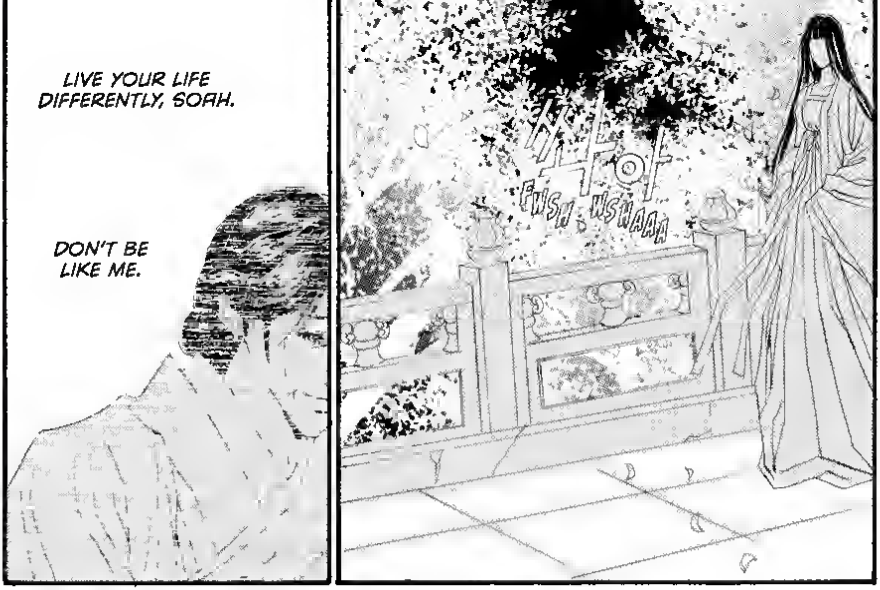
SO-YI, DO YOU KNOW WHAT TODAY IS?
NO, WHAT IS IT?


TODAY IS *CHILSEOK.*
CAN YOU SEE THE CHEON RIVER* IN THE NIGHT SKY?
TODAY IS THE ONLY DAY IN THE YEAR WHEN GYEONWU AND JIKNYEO CAN SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN ACROSS THE RIVER.

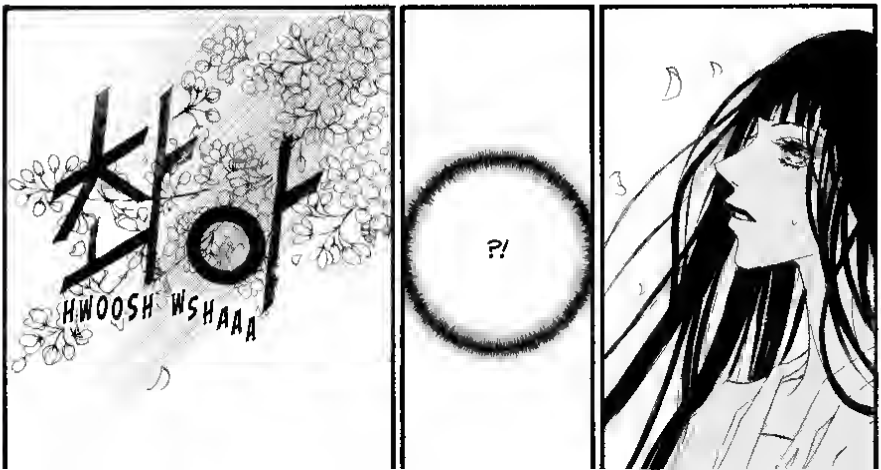
*THE CHEON RIVER IS THE KOREAN VERSION OF THE MILKY WAY

I FEEL SORRY FOR THEM. I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT--SEEING EACH OTHER ONLY ONCE A YEAR.
I HOPE THAT THEY CAN BE TOGETHER AGAIN TODAY, YOU KNOW?




LIVE YOUR LIFE DIFFERENTLY, SOAH.
DON'T BE LIKE ME.
HWOOSH WSHAAA

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? I'M THE BRIDE WHO'S SOLD AND SOLD AGAIN.
WILL I LIVE LIKE MY MOTHER AFTER ALL?
DO I... LOVE DONG-YOUNG?


HWOOSH WSHAAA
?!

TODAY IS CHILSEOK. THE ONE DAY IN THE YEAR...

...THAT THE LOVERS
CAN BE TOGETHER.

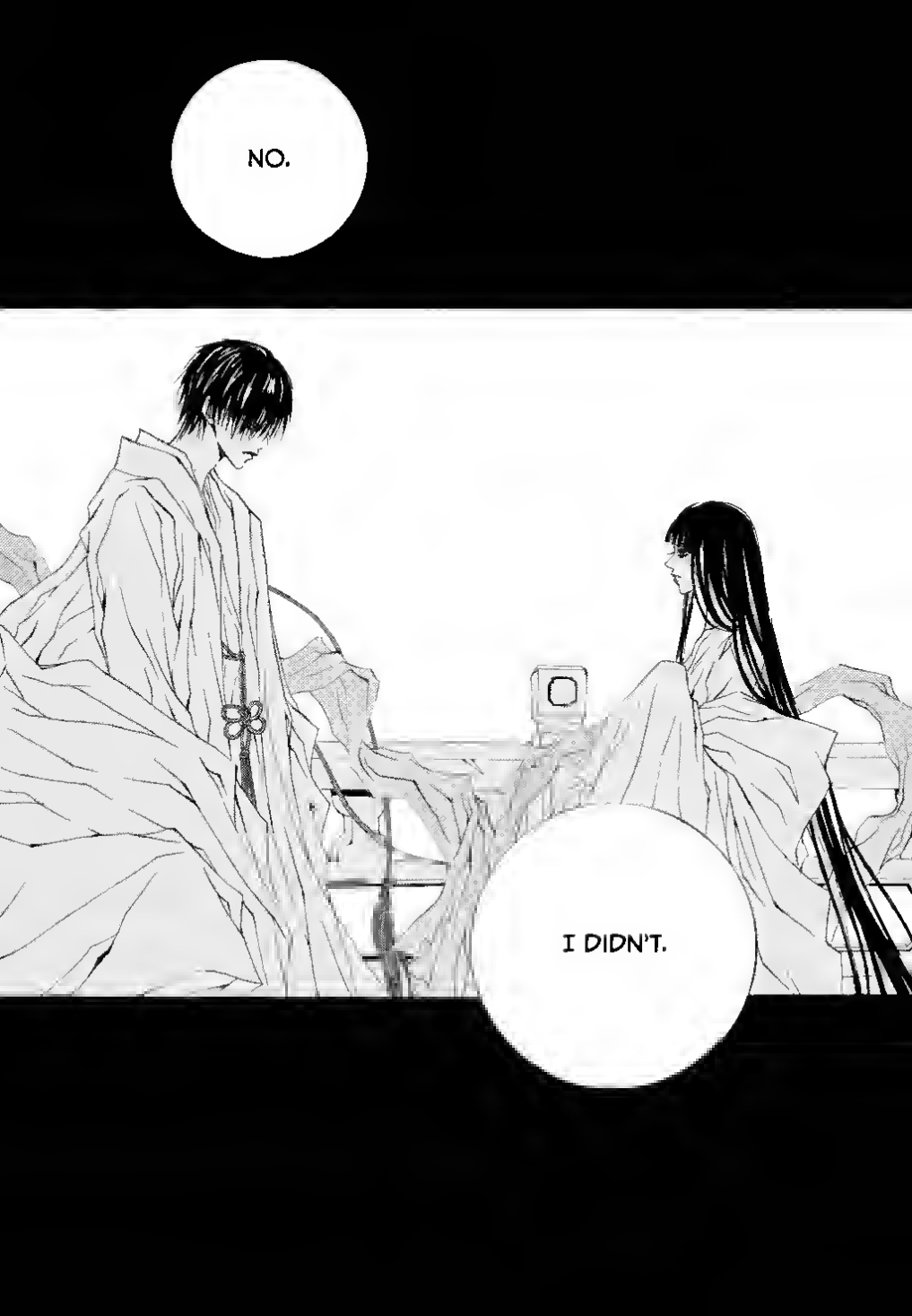
HA...
...BAEK...?

WHEN YOU SEE HER AGAIN...
...IF SHE REMEMBERS YOUR NAME...

HA...
BAEK...?
WHAT?

YOU...
...REMEMBER...
SOAH!

SO-YI/ WHY'D YOU COME OUTSIDE? IT'S COLD/ CAN'T YOU SLEEP?
I WAS SCARED TO BE WITH-OUT YOU.
AH... UMM... SORRY.
I THINK I WAS RUDE TO YOU, EVEN THOUGH I DON'T KNOW YOU.
WHEN I MET YOU FOR THE FIRST TIME, RAIN FELL. SO... I WAS THINKING THAT YOU'D BROUGHT US RAIN.
IT WAS AS IF THE WATER GOD SAVED ME.
BY THE WAY, IT SEEMED THAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE. DID YOU FIND THAT PERSON?
SO, WHEN I SAW YOU, THE NAME "HABAEK" CAME TO MIND. SORRY ABOUT THAT/


NO.
I DIDN'T.

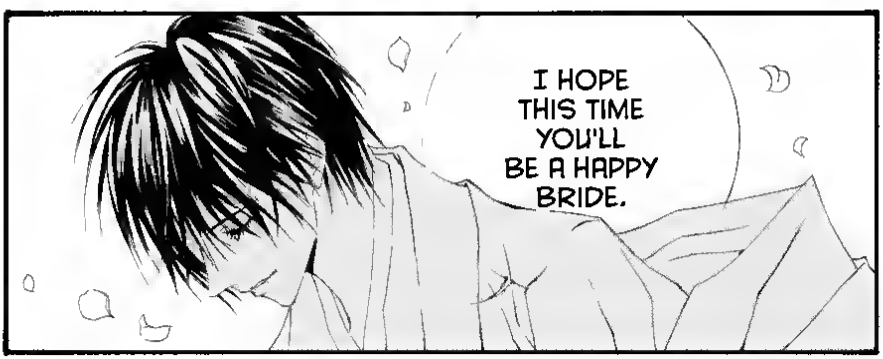
WHHSHH
WSHAA
WHO ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
MY WIFE.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S NOT HERE.

SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE REALLY IN LOVE WITH HER.
NO, NOT REALLY.
SHE WAS ODD. SHE WAS CRANKY...
...TACTLESS... AND DULL. WE ARGUED WHENEVER WE WERE TOGETHER.
THE WOMAN'S ONLY SKILL WAS KEEPING ME MAD ALL THE TIME.
GUESS THAT'S WHY SHE RAN AWAY.
BUT...
...I THINK I LIKED HER A LOT THE WAY SHE WAS.
MY... MY SISTER'S GONNA BE A BRIDE SOON!

SHUDDER

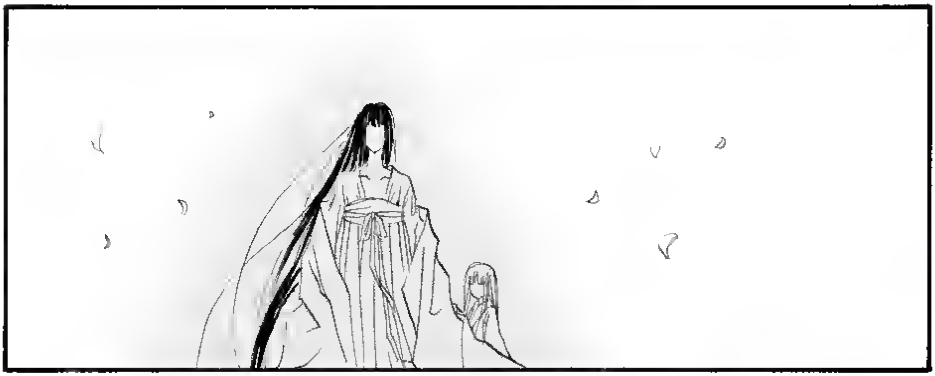
IN FIFTEEN DAYS... WE HAD TO MAKE PLANS QUITE SUDDENLY.

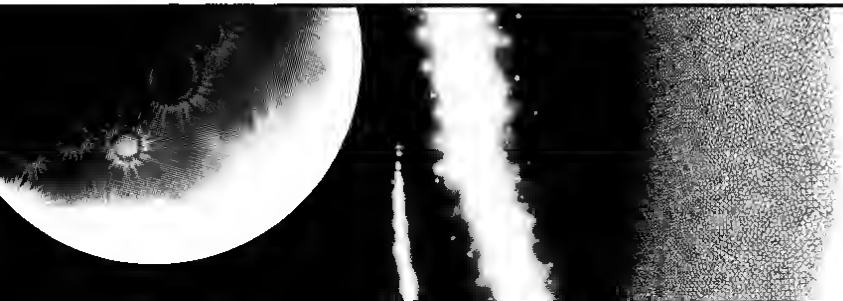
WHEN IS YOUR WEDDING?

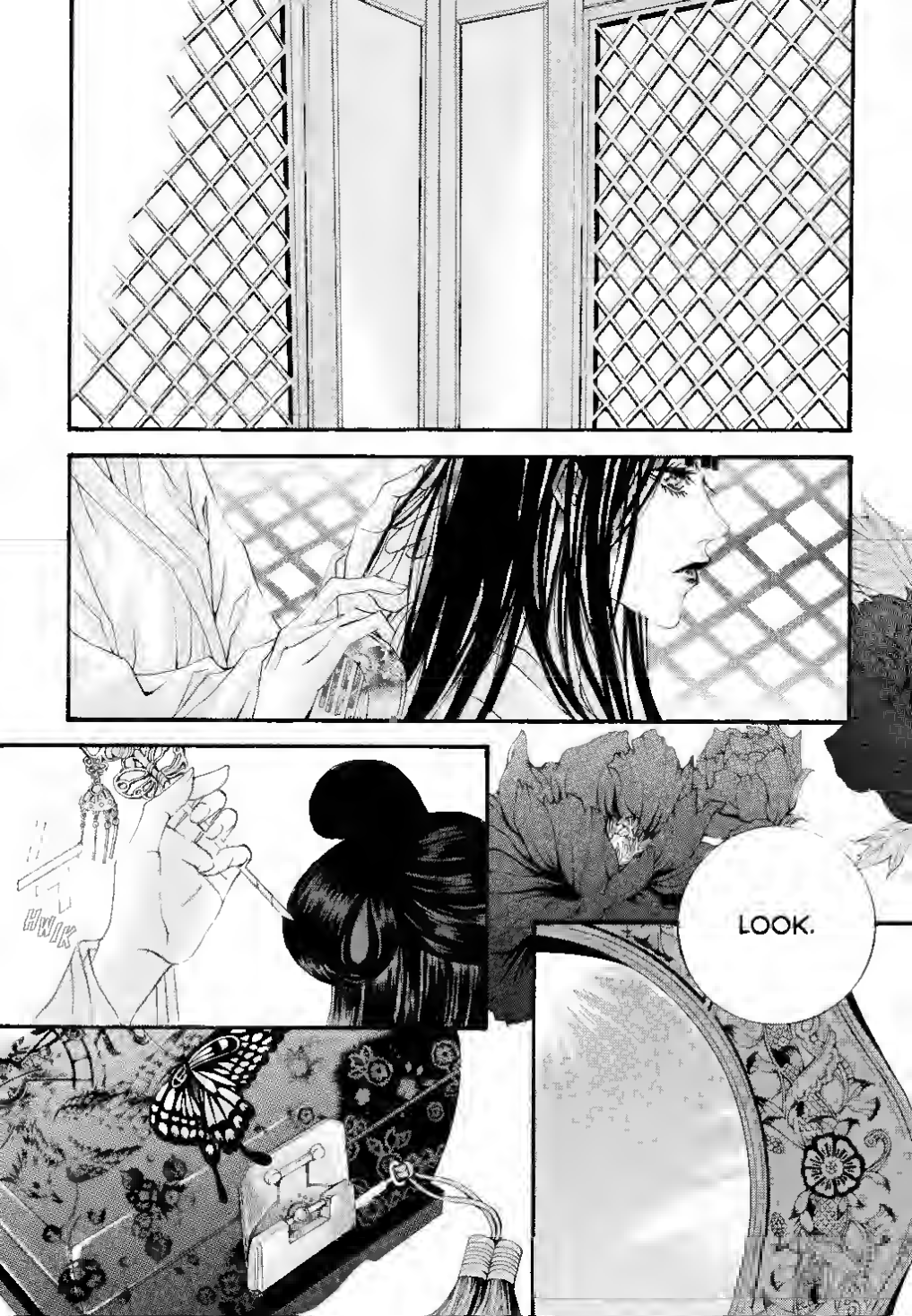

I HOPE THIS TIME YOU'LL BE A HAPPY BRIDE.

...?
THANK YOU.
I HOPE YOU FIND YOUR WIFE SOON.

SHWOO WSHAAA



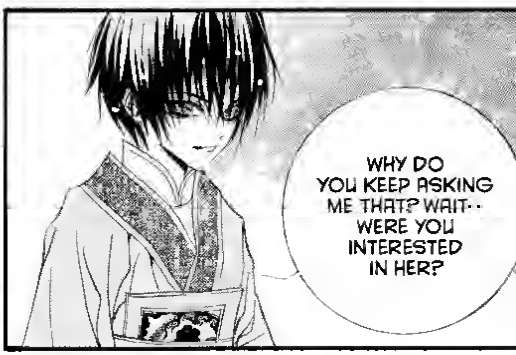


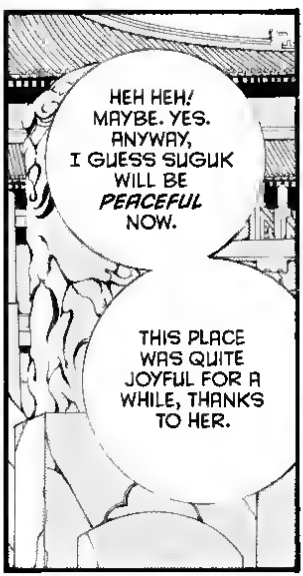

LOOK.

YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL, SORH.

EVERYONE RETURNED TO THEIR PLACES IN THE END.

ARE YOU SURE YOU WON'T REGRET IT?


WHY DO YOU KEEP ASKING ME THAT? WAIT·· WERE YOU INTERESTED IN HER?


HEH HEH! MAYBE. YES. ANYWAY, I GUESS SUGUK WILL BE *PEACEFUL* NOW.
THIS PLACE WAS QUITE JOYFUL FOR A WHILE, THANKS TO HER.

BY THE WAY, HOW DOES YOUR BODY FEEL?

WHAT?

비틀
STUMBLE
?!
NOW THE MEDICINE'S WORKING.
YOU...?
털썩
THUMP
WHY...?
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I HAD TO TELL YOU?
YOU CAN'T TRUST ANYONE HERE. YOU'RE FAR TOO TRUSTING.

THAT'S WHY YOU KEEP GETTING *BETRAYED*, HABAEK.
HAVE SWEET DREAMS...

--BAEK
HABAEK.
WAKE UP.
AAH... I HAD A DREAM.
WHAT WAS IT ABOUT?
A DREAM THAT YOU LEFT ME.
DON'T WORRY. I'M HERE WITH YOU.
YES, YOU ARE...

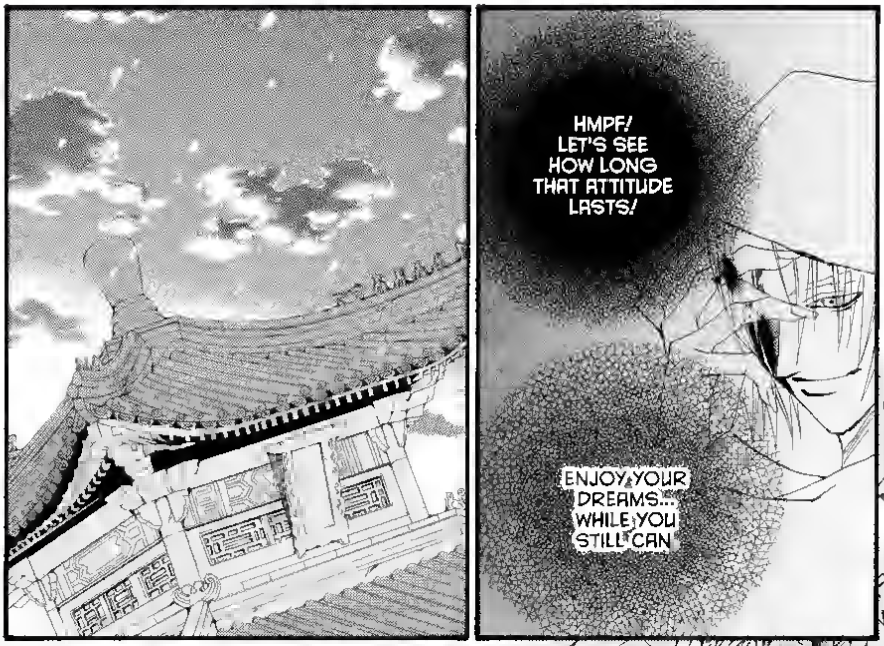
...NAKBIN.

SWEET
DREAMS...

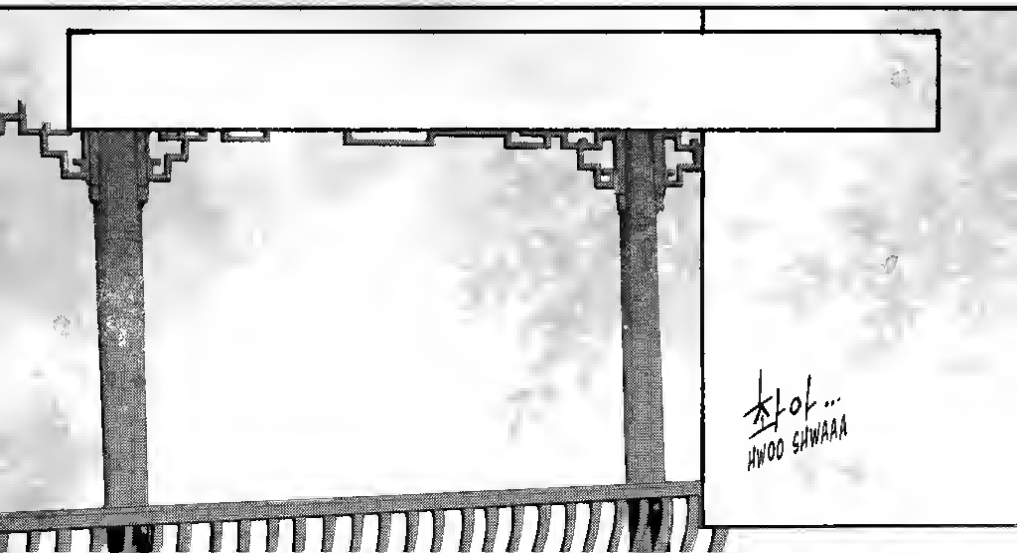
GREETINGS, WATER GOD.
I BRING A MESSAGE FROM THE EMPEROR.
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM THIS TIME?

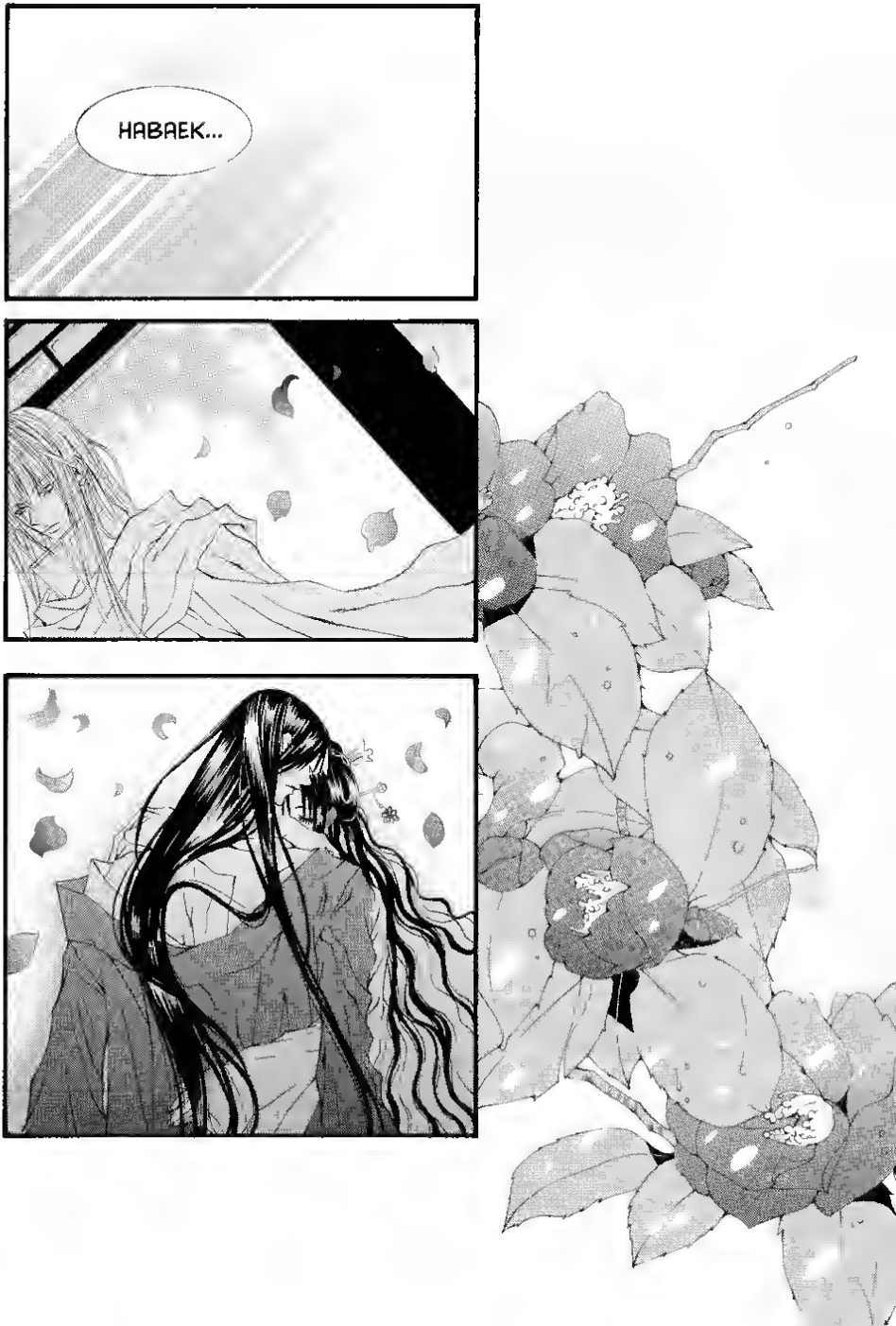
YOU'D BETTER NOT IGNORE THE EMPEROR'S ORDERS AGAIN.
IT WOULDN'T BE GOOD FOR EITHER HABAEK... OR HIS BEAUTIFUL BRIDE.
FWSHINNG
KSPTTCH
?!

YOU ARE *QUITE* RUDE, BAN-WANG. RETURN MY MESSAGE...
IF THE EMPEROR HAS SOMETHING TO SAY, HE CAN COME AND TALK TO ME DIRECTLY.



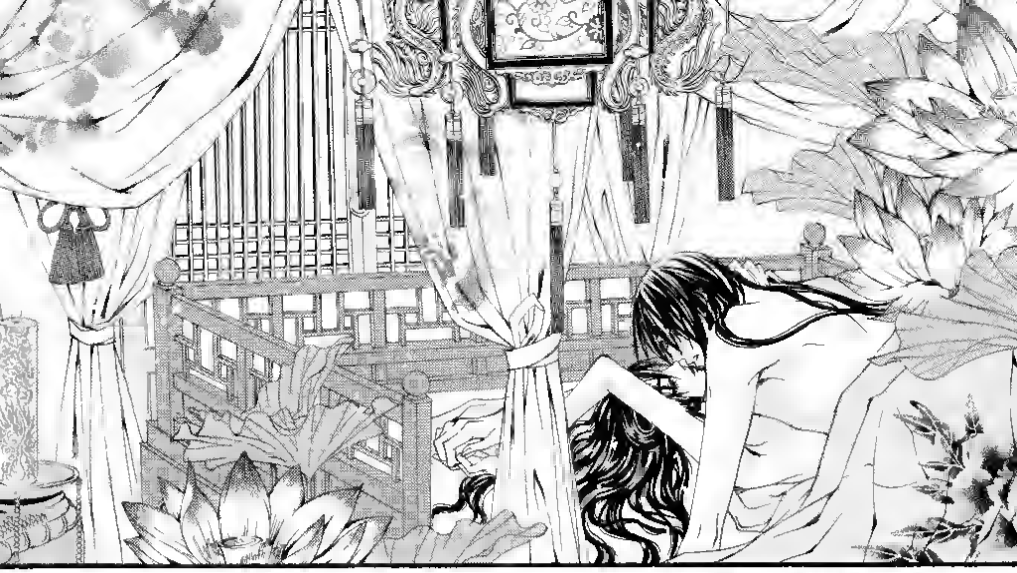
THE SWEETER YOUR DREAMS, THE LONGER THE BITTER TASTE OF REALITY WILL LINGER WHEN YOU AWAKEN.




HABAEK...

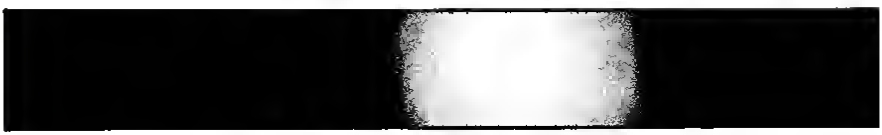
WHAT WERE YOU LIKE WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD, HABAEK?
I GUESS... PRETTY MUCH THE SAME AS I AM NOW. WHY?
I HEARD ABOUT HOW YOU WERE WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER... FROM *MURA-NIM* AND HER MAIDS.
I WISH THAT I COULD HAVE SPENT MY CHILDHOOD WITH YOU.
I HATE THAT THERE'S A TIME IN YOUR LIFE WHEN WE DIDN'T KNOW EACH OTHER.

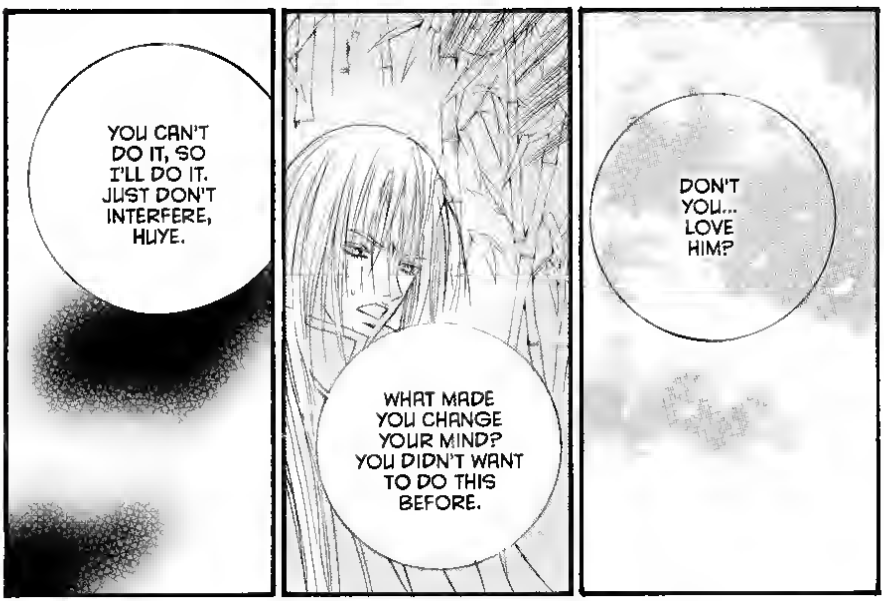
THAT'S NOT A BIG DEAL AT ALL...
...SINCE WE'LL BE SPENDING THE REST OF OUR LIVES TOGETHER, FROM HERE ON OUT.



IT'S GOING TO BE REALLY HARD TO FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM, IF LOVING HIM IS SEEN AS YOUR DUTY.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND, HABAEK'S BEAUTIFUL BRIDE...?
SHWAA WOOSH...
DON'T WORRY. I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.

SORRY TO SAY THIS, BUT YOU WON'T HAVE A SECOND CHANCE. YOU HAVE TO FINISH WHAT HUYE FAILED TO DO.
I'LL LOOK FORWARD TO YOU DOING THAT.
SKITTCHA




YOU CAN'T DO IT, SO I'LL DO IT. JUST DON'T INTERFERE, HUYE.
WHAT MADE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND? YOU DIDN'T WANT TO DO THIS BEFORE.
DON'T YOU... LOVE HIM?

LOVE? SHUT UP! WHO THE HELL WOULD LOVE THAT BOY?!
I WAS JUST PLAYING A ROLE.
?!
I'M GOING TO KILL HIM.

NAK-
BIN?
DO YOU
WANT TO
KNOW A
SECRET,
HABAEK?

.....

!

.....
WELL...
...GOOD-BYE, HABAEK.
SHINNG
SLITTCH

NAK...
BIN...?
LOOK
AT THIS,
HABAEK.
IT'S
SANG-SA-HWA,
THE *RESURRECTION*
LILY.
SPURRTCH

THE FLOWERS MISS EACH OTHER, AND THEY REACH OUT WITH THEIR BUDS AND THEN BLOSSOM.
BUT IN THE END, THEY CAN'T BE TOGETHER, AND THEIR YEARNING GROWS
ISN'T THAT BEAUTIFUL? THEY'RE LIKE THE LOVERS WHO MISS EACH OTHER, EVEN AFTER THEY'VE DIED.
WHY ARE YOU SO MOROSE, TALKING ABOUT UNFORTUNATE LOVERS AND SAD FLOWERS?
WE'LL NEVER BE APART FROM EACH OTHER.

YOU SEE...
I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I?
I TOLD YOU THAT YOU WOULDN'T MAKE IT, HUYE.

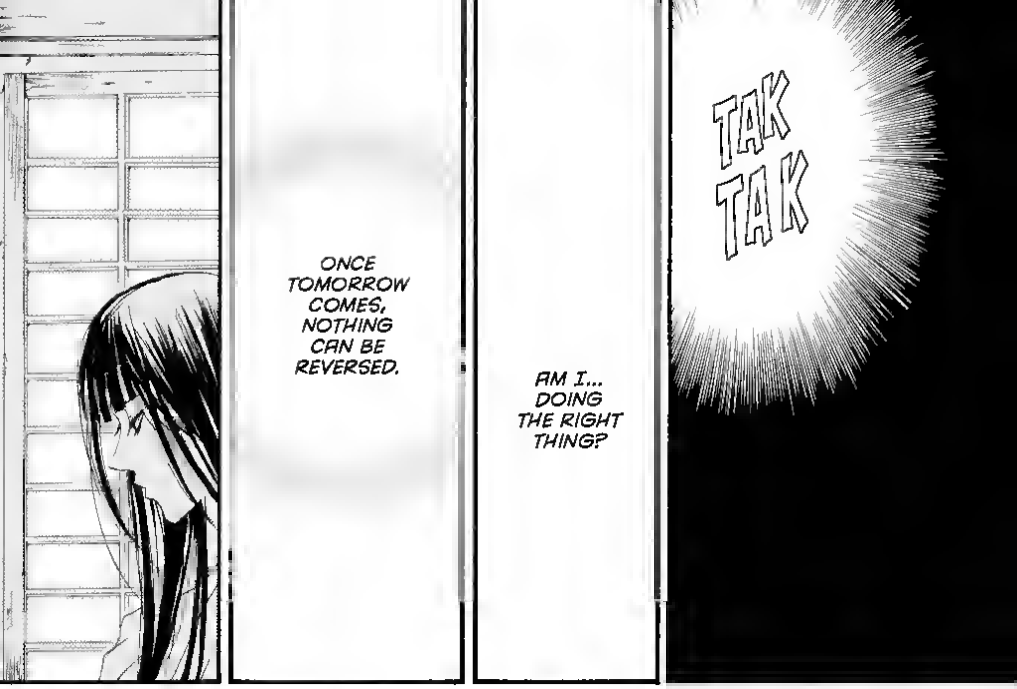
털썩
THMMP
KTAK

DO YOU KNOW WHY SOME PEOPLE CALL *SANG-SA-HWA* THE *FAREWELL FLOWER?*
HABAEK...?

콰과광
KRAKOOM KOOOM
HABAEK...

EEYAAAAGHH!!
콰르르
KRA KOOM
THOOOM

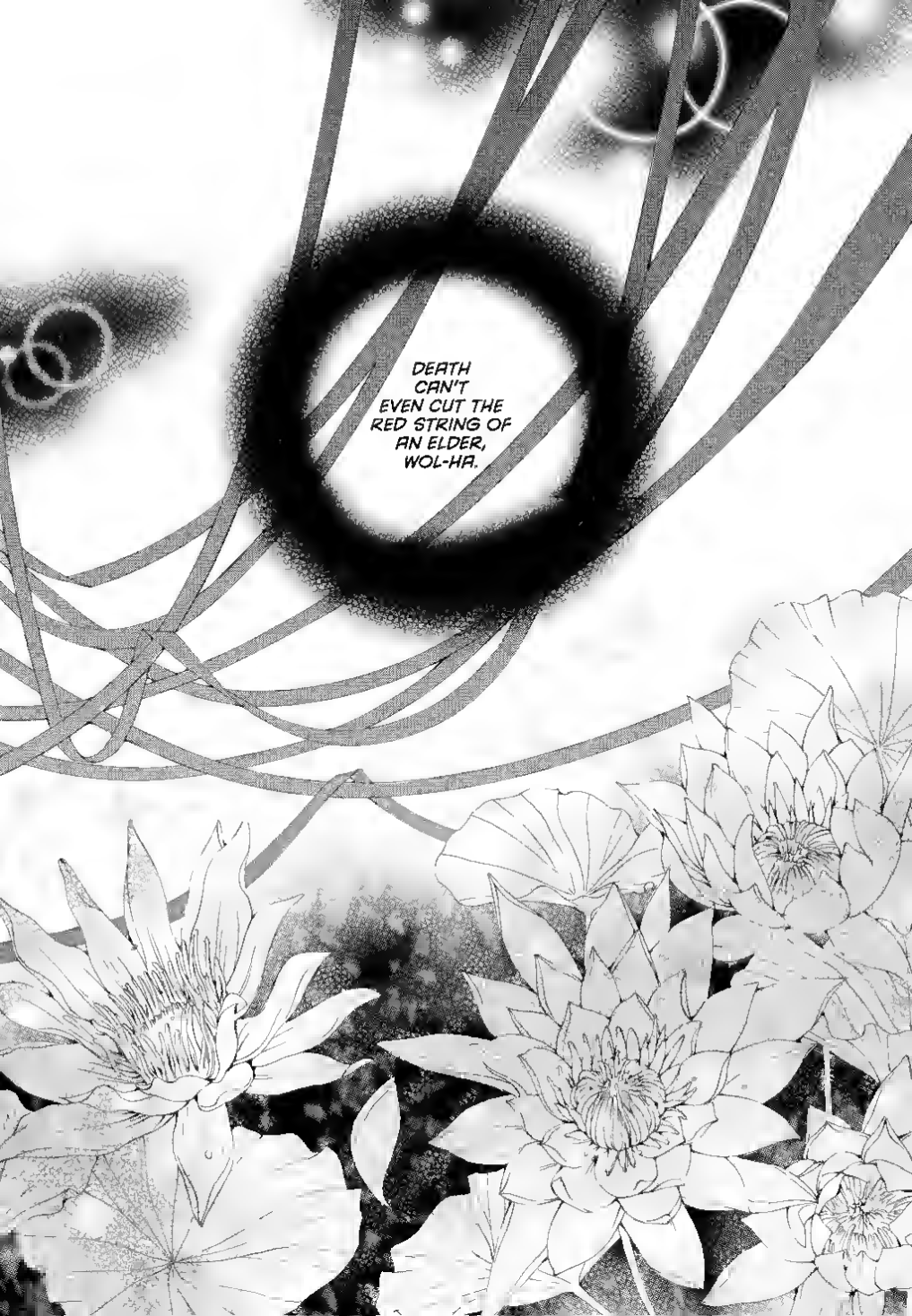
TOMORROW'S YOUR WEDDING DAY. GO TO BED.
YES...


ONCE TOMORROW COMES, NOTHING CAN BE REVERSED.
AM I... DOING THE RIGHT THING?
TAK TAK

WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
KCHIK

SOAH!

WOOSH
WSHAA
I CAME TO TAKE YOU BACK.


DEATH CAN'T EVEN CUT THE RED STRING OF AN ELDER, WOL-HA.

THUMP
THA-THUMP
I CAME TO TAKE YOU BACK.
LET'S GO, SOAH.
THA-THUMP
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, JUST BURSTING INTO THE ROOM LIKE THAT...?
AND YOU SAID YOU WERE LOOKING FOR YOUR WIFE!
YOU MIGHT NOT REMEMBER, BUT I'M GETTING MARRIED TOMORROW!

I DON'T KNOW WHO THE HELL YOU ARE!
GASP!
YOU SERIOUSLY DON'T REMEMBER WHO I AM?
HOW RUDE! BREAKING INTO A STRANGER'S ROOM AND TALKING ABOUT WEIRD THINGS.
I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE AGAIN.

GET OUT BEFORE I CALL FOR HELP.
THIS WAS REALLY THE LAST TRY.
WHISH

WAIT... DON'T GO...
PLEASE DON'T GO...
MUI!
GOOD-BYE...
...MUI...

WELL, I DON'T THINK I'D JUST GIVE UP...
?!
IF YOU REALLY DON'T CARE...
...YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE MADE THAT FACE.

FWOOSHAAH
WAIT, LET GO OF ME! WHERE ARE WE GOING?
I DON'T WANNA GO! I SAID NO! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
HEY!
STOP! DIDN'T YOU HEAR THE GIRL?! SHE DOESN'T WANT TO GO WITH YOU!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU? WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO TAKE MY DAUGHTER?
SORH... ARE YOU OKAY?

SHE'S MY FIANCÉE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, BUT LET GO OF HER NOW.
SORRY TO SAY THIS, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO BACK OFF. SHE WAS MINE FIRST.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! WE'RE GETTING MARRIED TOMORROW!
IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, YOU'LL BE SORRY!
BUT SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO LIKE YOU ALL THAT MUCH!
WHAT?!

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT US?! SOAH AND I'VE GROWN UP TOGETHER! I KNOW HER MUCH BETTER THAN YOU!
SHE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A HAPPY BRIDE! IF YOU REALLY LOVE HER, SET HER FREE!
WHAT? YOU BASTARD!
ARE YOU CHALLENGING ME?
SOAH! IT'S UP TO YOU! DECIDE WHO YOU WANT TO BE WITH! ME?! THIS GUY?!
WHY DOES *SHE* HAVE TO DECIDE? EVERYTHING'LL BE FINE ONCE YOU GO AWAY!
STOP IT-- BOTH OF YOU!!
?!

I'M NEITHER A THING NOR SOMEONE'S POSSESSION.
I DON'T LIKE EITHER OF YOU! WHY DO YOU BOTH ASSUME EVERYTHING WILL GO YOUR WAY AND NEVER ASK ME WHAT I THINK?
I CAN'T STAND THIS! YOU KNOW WHAT? I'M NOT MARRYING ANYONE! LEAVE ME ALONE!
SOAH...
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? ARE YOU INSANE? EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE IF YOU JUST DO AS YOU'RE TOLD!
DO YOU WANT ME TO PUT YOU IN EVEN MORE PAIN THAN EVER?
YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED TOMORROW-- AND THAT'S THAT.
SOAH... COME AND APOLOGIZE TO YOUR FATHER!

FWOOSH
?!

YAAH!
SHFF
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DO WHAT YOU WANT TO DO...

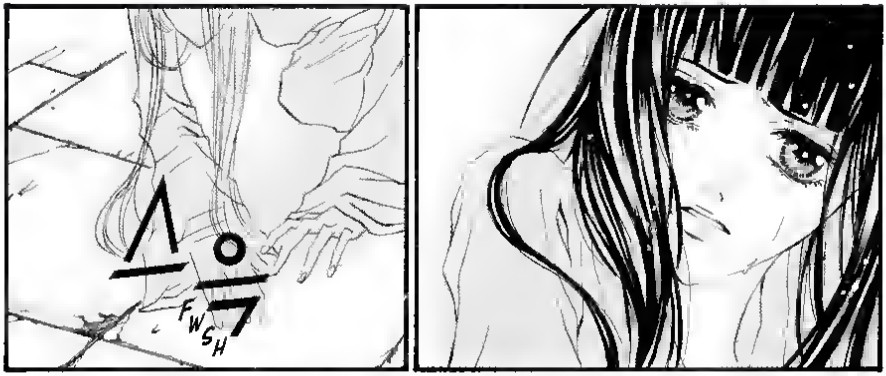
...I WILL DO WHAT I WANT TO DO.

W-WAIT!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE--

FWOOO
EEYAAH!!
SPLOOSH
?!

SOAH!!
SOAH!
?!
WAIT-- HOW DEEP WAS THIS WELL?
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
WELL...
...IT'S TRUE THAT I ALWAYS WANTED TO RUN AWAY...
...FROM A FATHER WHO WANTED TO SELL ME AND A MOTHER WHO COULDN'T PROTECT ME...
GRAB
...AND FROM A NOSY BABY SISTER WHO WAS ALWAYS LEANING ON ME...!

BUT...
...THE WORST THING IS...
...THE REALITY OF MY SELFISH DESIRE JUST TO GET AWAY AND BE HAPPY.


스윽
FWSH

THIS PLACE IS...

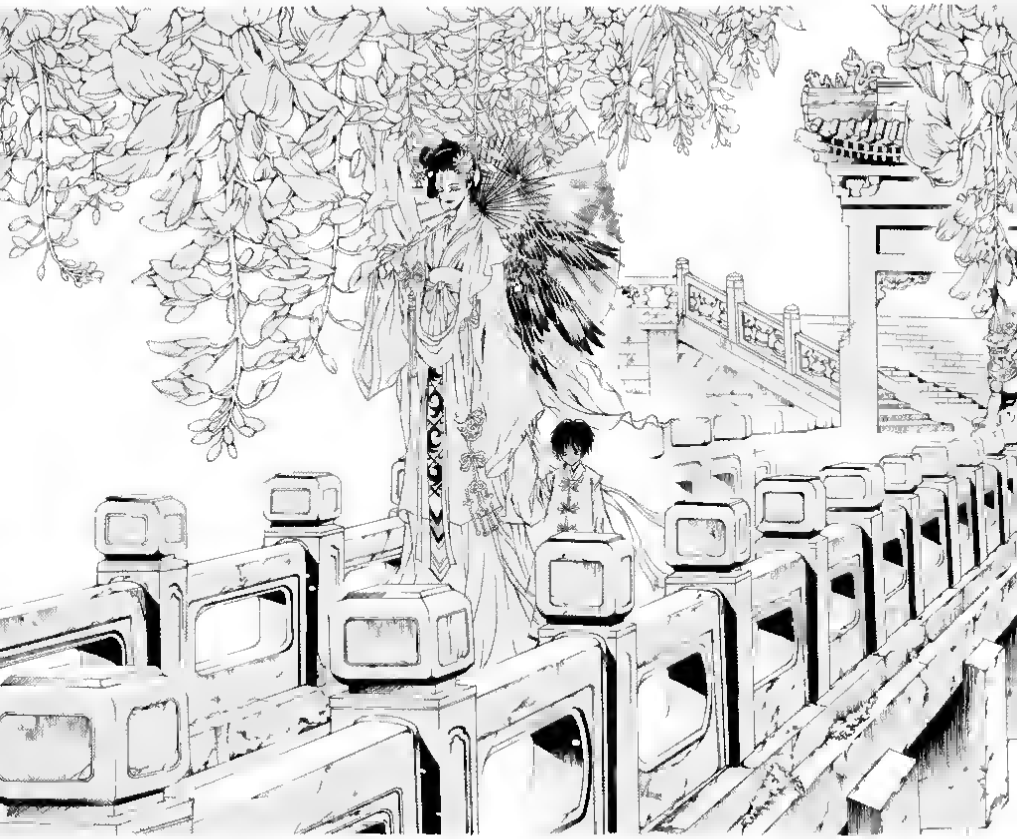
저벅
KTOKK
저벅
KTOKK

WELCOME BACK.
CAN I BE HAPPY?

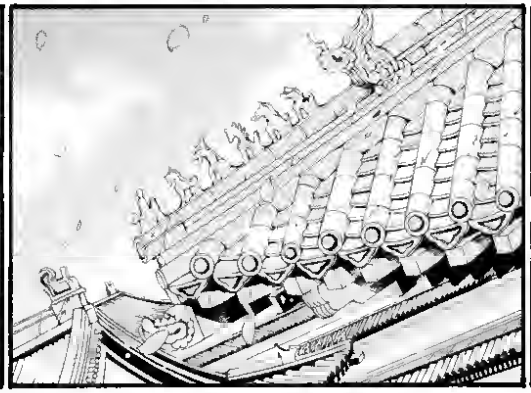
I'M
BACK.

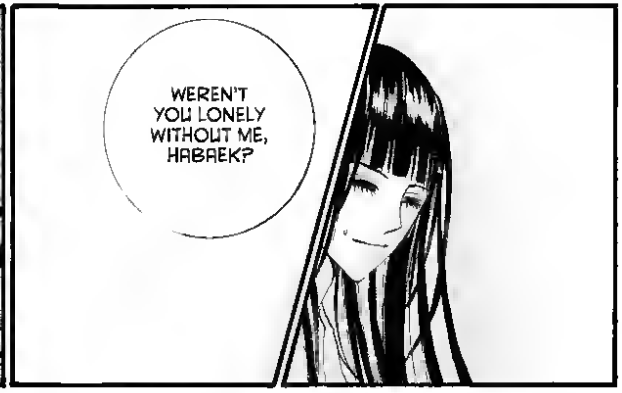
WELCOME.
I'M BACK.

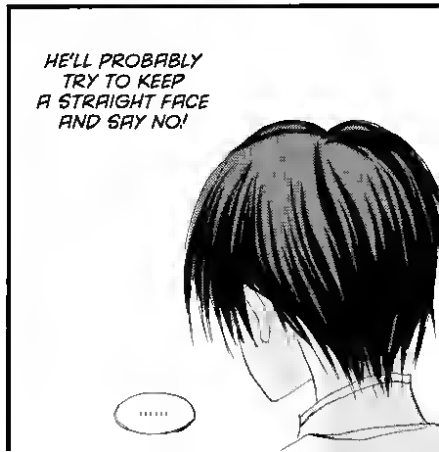
WOBBLE
털썩
THMMP!



FOOM KOOM KOOM
VOOM KOOM KOOM KOOM



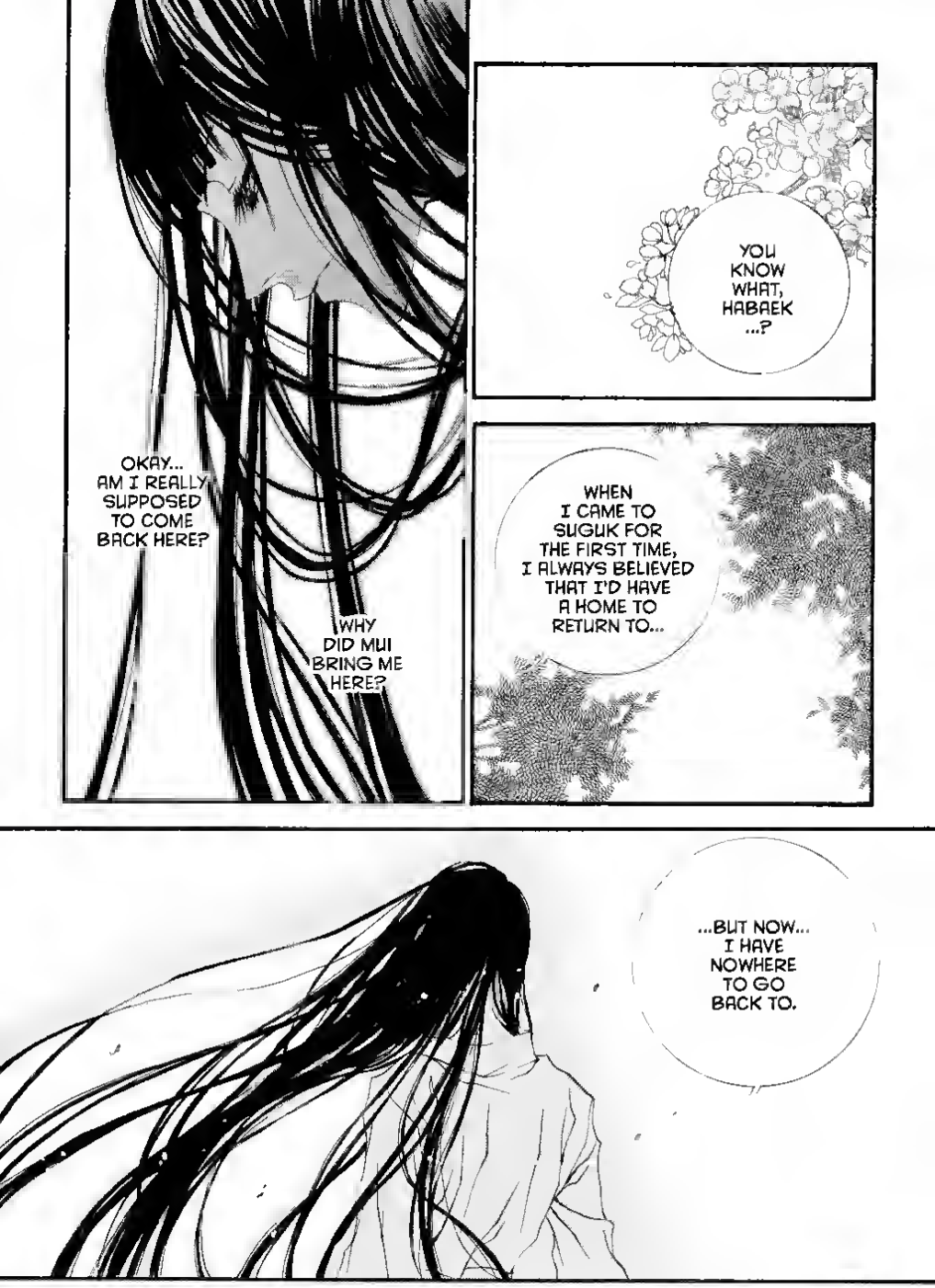

WEREN'T YOU LONELY WITHOUT ME, HABAEK?


HE'LL PROBABLY TRY TO KEEP A STRAIGHT FACE AND SAY NO!
.....

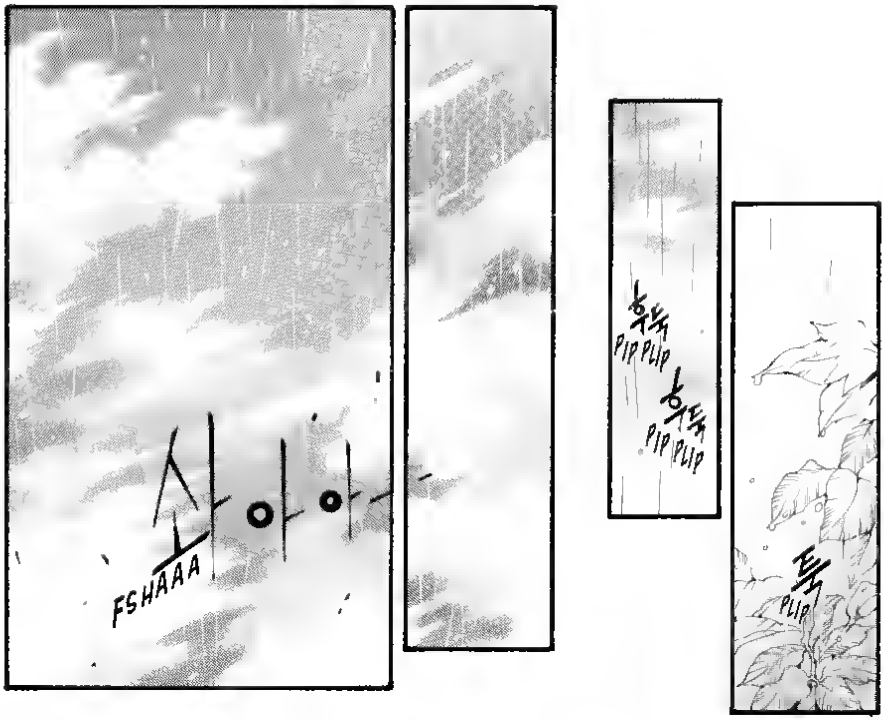
WELL...
A LITTLE...

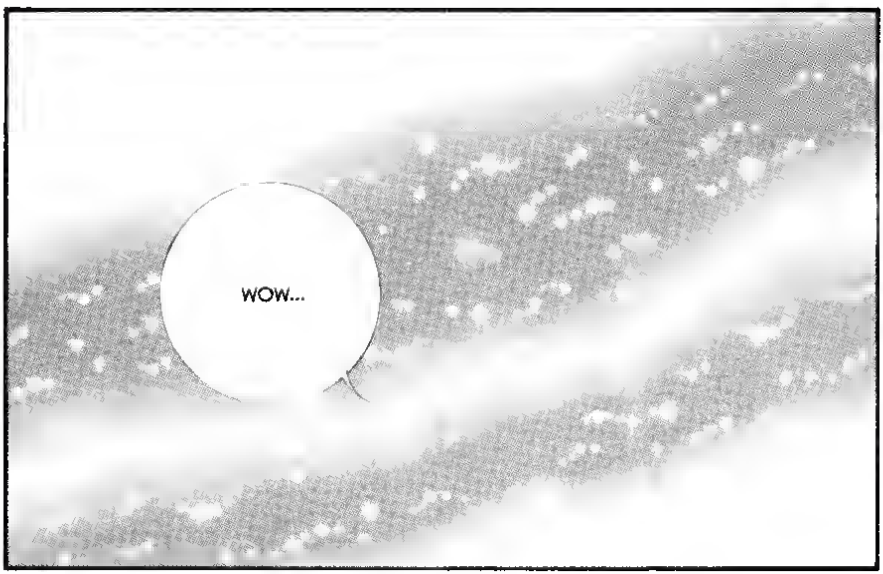
OH...

PEOPLE
GET LONELY
EVEN IF THEIR
PET DOGS
LEAVE THEM,
YOU KNOW?


OKAY... AM I REALLY SUPPOSED TO COME BACK HERE?
WHY DID MUI BRING ME HERE?
YOU KNOW WHAT, HABAEK ...?
WHEN I CAME TO SUGUK FOR THE FIRST TIME, I ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT I'D HAVE A HOME TO RETURN TO...
...BUT NOW... I HAVE NOWHERE TO GO BACK TO.

쏴아아아아
FSHAAAAAA
쏴아..
SHAAA
I'M FREEZING! WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?! I WAS TALKING SERIOUSLY!
THAT'S THE CRAZINESS THAT I HAVE COME TO EXPECT OF YOU. DON'T GET SERIOUS.


FSHAAA
후두둑
PIP PLIP
후두둑
PIP PLIP
뚝
PLIP


WOW...

...A RAINBOW!
PRETTY.
THANKS FOR COMFORTING ME, HABAEK.
HMPF! IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS REALLY TRYING HARD TO DO SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR YOU.
HE'S PRETENDING THAT HE DOESN'T CARE, BUT I KNOW NOW THAT HE CARES FOR ME.

IT'S VERY STRANGE TO FEEL THAT A GOD IS MORE HUMAN THAN MY FAMILY OR NEIGHBORS.
YOU LIKE ME, DON'T YOU HARAEK?
?!
WELL, LET'S JUST SEE WHAT HAPPENS...
HUH? WHY CAN'T I SEE HER? I WANT TO TALK TO HER, TOO!
IT'S COURTEOUS TO LET THEM HAVE TIME ALONE, SILLY.
WE'RE NOT WELCOME THERE.
.....

AREN'T YOU GOING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS?
BY THE WAY, WHAT MADE HIM CHANGE HIS MIND LIKE THAT?
AND WHICH SIDE OF THE FENCE ARE YOU ON?
WELL, A PROMISE IS A PROMISE.

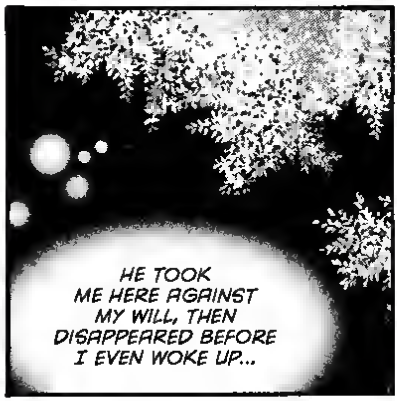
ARE YOU SURE?
THERE'S NOTHING DOWN THAT WELL. IT'S BEEN DRIED OUT FOR A WHILE.
DO YOU WANT US TO KEEP LOOKING?
NO, IT'S OKAY.
YOU DON'T NEED TO LOOK ANYMORE.
SHE'S PROBABLY... SAFE...

SOAH...
...SINCE YOUR MIRACULOUS RETURN FROM SUGUK, I REALIZED... HOW MUCH I MISSED YOU.
I REALLY WISH THAT IT COULD'VE BEEN ME, BUT...
...IT WASN'T MEANT TO BE...

GOODBYE...
MY FIANCÉE...
DONG-YOUNG?

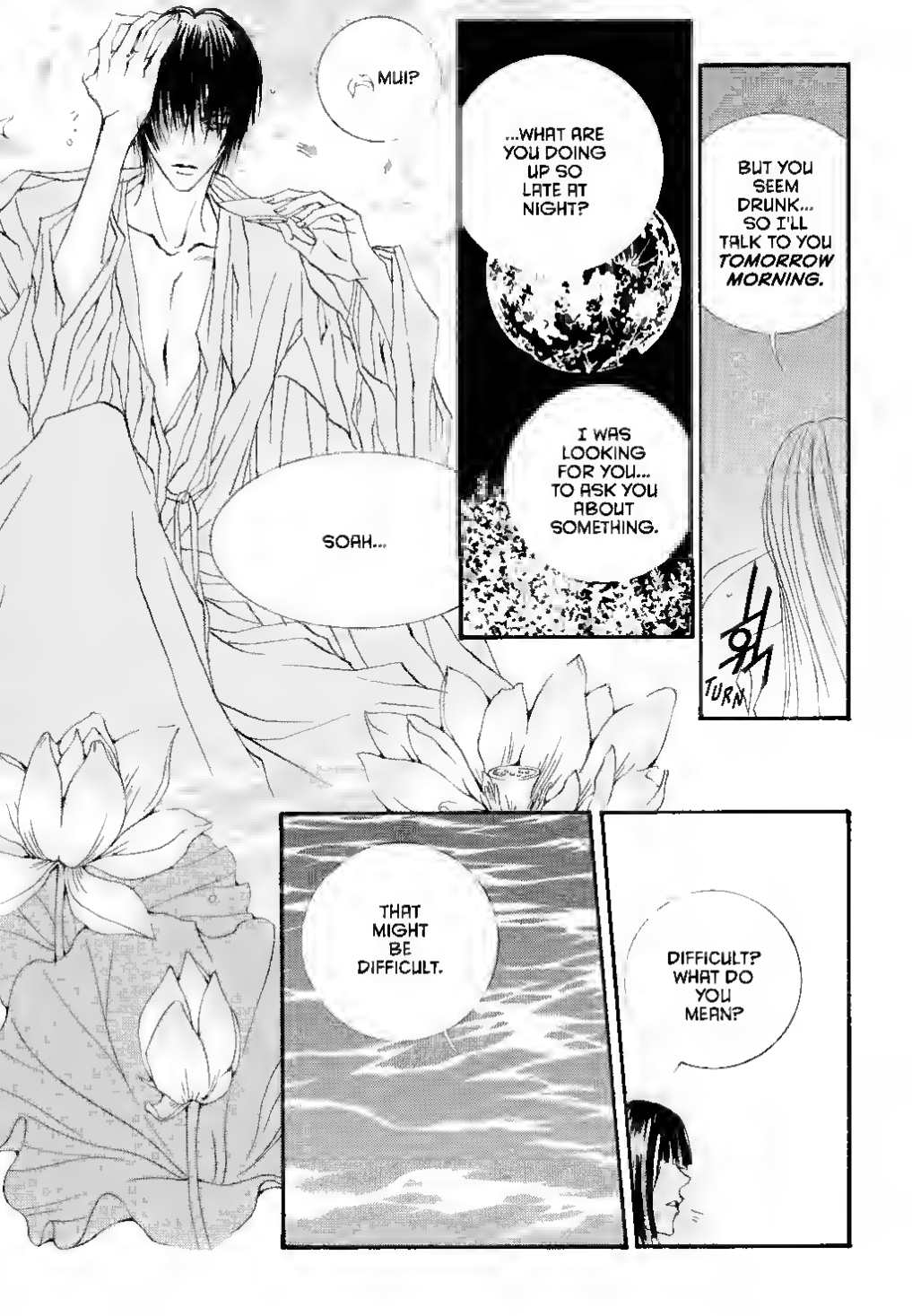
...I CAME BACK TO SUGUK.
OH, RIGHT...
BY THE WAY, WHERE'S MUI?

TOKK
TOKK


HE TOOK ME HERE AGAINST MY WILL, THEN DISAPPEARED BEFORE I EVEN WOKE UP...

HE'S ALWAYS SO INCORRIGIBLE LIKE THAT.
I'LL HAVE TO ASK HIM WHAT HE WAS THINKING...

SPL
SHWOOSHAA


MU!?
SOAH...
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP SO LATE AT NIGHT?
I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU... TO ASK YOU ABOUT SOMETHING.
BUT YOU SEEM DRUNK... SO I'LL TALK TO YOU *TOMORROW MORNING.*
TURN
THAT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT.
DIFFICULT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

SHIFF
HMM. WEIRD. I THOUGHT I HEARD HER VOICE...
FWOOSH
SOAH? YOU HERE?
WAS I JUST HEARING THINGS?
?

LOOKS LIKE SHE'S GOING BACK.
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
IF SHE CATCHES US, IT'LL BE MORE TROUBLE THAN YOU'D WANT TO DEAL WITH.

WSH
LET--
LET GO
OF ME!
DROP
KYAAA!!
SPLOOOSH

HERE.
WSH
SWAP
?!
.....
SPLOOOSH
HA HA HA! HOW WAS IT? I GOT YOU BACK, RIGHT?
.....
WAIT! HE'S NOT COMING BACK UP...

EEYAAH!!
MUI!!
SPLOOSH
MUI! ARE YOU OKAY?
WAKE UP!
HEY, MUI?!
NO! PLEASE DON'T DIE!!
WSHT
YOU'RE DANGEROUS.

YOU
MAKE
ME WANT
YOU.

Bride of the Water God

"The separated lovers will once again be reunited."

SHWOO WOOSH...
PLIP

HOW CAN HE SAY SOMETHING LIKE THIS SO EASILY?
I ALMOST FELL FOR IT.
I'M GOING TO ASK HIM THIS TIME.
HE DRAGGED ME BACK HERE BY FORCE, THEN JUST VANISHED...
HEY, MUI. I WANT TO KNOW SOMETHING.
?
I KNOW THAT YOU LIKE NAKBIN, SO WHY DO YOU CONFUSE ME BY BEING SO FLIGHTY? SHOULDN'T YOUR ACTIONS MEAN SOMETHING? WHY DID YOU GO TO THE HUMAN WORLD TO TAKE ME BACK?

...THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO TELL HIM, BUT...
I...I MEAN...
...IT'S...UMM...
IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, SAY IT. DO I HAVE TO MOVE YOUR MOUTH FOR YOU?
?!
I...I MEAN...
I WON'T BE A CHEAP REPLACEMENT FOR NAKBIN.

.....
AHI
WHAT DID I JUST SAY?!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY...UMM...SO, I MEAN...
BE HONEST. YOU STARTED REMEMBERING THINGS BEFORE YOU CAME BACK TO SUGUK, DIDN'T YOU?

DOES... DOES IT MATTER? ANYWAY, THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
WELL, I'LL GET GOING THEN.
...THERE'S NO REASON I HAVE TO TELL HIM ABOUT IT.
ACTUALLY, SINCE THE KIDNAPPING, I STARTED REMEMBERING THINGS, BUT...

MU!?
NO.
YOU ARE NOT A CHEAP REPLACEMENT FOR NAKBIN.

움찔
FLINCH
콕
PUSH
?!
휙
HWOOSH
.....

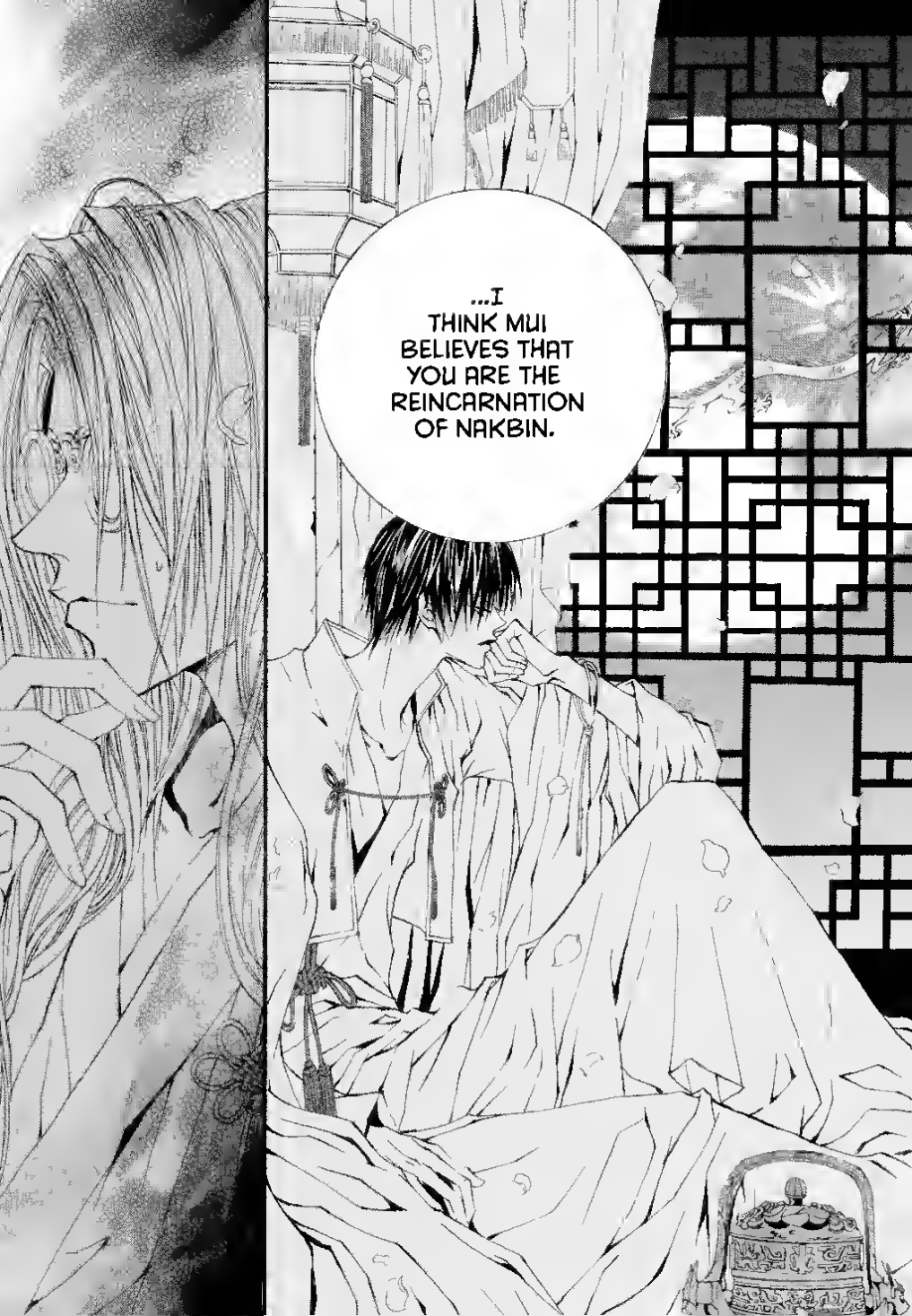
I MUST BE A REALLY BAD PERSON.
I THANKED HABAEK FOR HIS CONSOLATION IN THE DAYTIME...
...NOW I HAVE BUTTERFLIES IN MY STOMACH AND HANG ON MUI'S EVERY WORD.

IF ONLY... MUI WERE HABAEK...
IF SO, I WOULDN'T HAVE NEEDED TO WORRY ABOUT IT.
.....
YOU'RE INSANE./ YOU ARE JUST A SACRIFICED REPLACEMENT BRIDE.
LIKE YOU HAVE ANY RIGHT TO BE GREEDY AS A PHONY BRIDE.
LADY SOAH...
?!

TAE-EUL-JIN-IN-NIM!
IT WAS TRUE THAT YOU CAME BACK. IT *WAS* YOU.
YOU SURPRISED ME THE FIRST TIME WE MET, AND YOU STILL POP OUT OF NOWHERE.
SWSHPISH
WHAT'S THAT?
AH... THOSE FISH ARE CALLED *ANGELFISH.*
THEY LOOK LIKE FISH THAT HAVE BIRD WINGS. THAT'S WHY WE CALL THEM THAT.
IT'S PRETTY.

HMM... "PRETTY"...
ACTUALLY, WHEN THE ANGEL-FISH APPEARS ON EARTH, IT BRINGS DROUGHT, SO THEY ARE NOT WELCOME AMONG HUMAN BEINGS.
DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER.
THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT CAN BE MISJUDGED, IF YOU GO BY APPEARANCES ALONE.
YOU KNOW, YOHEE LOOKS LIKE A LITTLE KID...
...BUT SHE'S A BEING FROM THE *OTHERWORLD*, AND SHE'S HUNDREDS OF YEARS OLD.

HAVE YOU SEEN MUI?
I DID, FOR A SECOND... A MINUTE AGO...
DID YOU NOTICE ANY DIFFERENCE IN HIS BEHAVIOR?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT...?
WELL...
...I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PUT THIS...
...BUT I'M IN A VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION...


...I
THINK MUI
BELIEVES THAT
YOU ARE THE
REINCARNATION
OF NAKBIN.

WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?

UMM... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WHY IS HE SAYING STUFF LIKE THIS TO ME?

...CONFUSING ME WITH NAKBIN...

IS HE TOYING WITH MY FEELINGS? BUT, WHY...?!

REINCARNA-TION... THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.
AND ANYWAY, SHE'S *ALIVE.*
I SAW HER WITH MY OWN EYES/ SHE'S STILL AROUND.
YOU MISUNDERSTOOD SOMETHING, TAE-EUL-JIN-IN.
DID HE TRY TO SEND ME BACK HOME BECAUSE *SHE* CAME BACK?
THAT WASN'T NAKBIN.
I DON'T KNOW THE STORY BEHIND IT, BUT SHE WASN'T NAKBIN...EVEN THOUGH SHE LOOKED LIKE NAKBIN.
I WANTED TO HELP YOU, BUT THINGS GOT COMPLICATED...AND I'M IN TROUBLE, TOO, NOW.
I'M SORRY.
FWSH WSHOO

I HOPE THIS IS ALL JUST SOME HUGE, CONFUSING, GRAND MIS-UNDERSTANDING.
IT'S A FACT THAT NAKBIN IS DEAD.
LADY...

...DON'T BELIEVE IT.
DON'T EVER LISTEN TO HIM.
I DON'T KNOW HOW HE GOT HABAEK TO LET HIM STAY HERE. NOBODY REALLY KNOWS WHAT HE'S UP TO, AND I REALLY DON'T LIKE HIM.
YOU SHOULDN'T TALK TO HIM.
LADY SOAH?
ARE YOU OKAY?
FUSH
WHOOSH
SOAH!!

I CAN'T TRUST ANYONE...
HWHOOSH
...NO ONE...
KRISH
KRISH
KRISH
SWOOSH
HWOO

휙
FWHOK
덥석
GRAB
?!
SORH?

HUYE...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
FWOOWOOSH

펄럭
HWIK
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
WISH
AND...
YOU SEEM TO BE IN GOOD SPIRITS. IS IT BECAUSE THAT HUMAN GIRL CAME BACK?
...I DON'T WANT YOU SHOWING UP LOOKING LIKE *HER* ANYMORE.

FSH
HEH HEH/ I THOUGHT YOU WOULD LIKE IT.
THE FACE OF THE LOVER YOU MISS YET CAN'T EVEN SEE IN YOUR DREAMS.
WHEN ARE YOU PLANNING TO LEAVE SUGUK?
OH, MY/ AM I BECOMING SO INSIGNIFICANT NOW THAT YOUR HUMAN GIRL'S BACK?
BY THE WAY, IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO SIT AROUND LIKE THIS?
I JUST SAW YOUR PRECIOUS LADY WITH YOUR GENERAL...

YES...
THAT'S
THE FACE.
큭큭.
HEH
HEH!
PLEASE
ENTERTAIN ME MORE,
HABAEK.

I'M SORRY, HUYE. YOU ONLY SEEM TO CATCH ME AT THE MOST EMBARRASSING TIMES.
IT'S OKAY. I'D LIKE TO LISTEN TO YOU, IF YOU DON'T MIND.
I'VE BEEN FEELING BAD THAT I'VE NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO HELP YOU, EVEN THOUGH I PROMISED TO DO SO.
쉬아아
SWSH WSHAA
CHEF

WOOSH
WOOSH
WSHAA

PLEASE... LET ME ESCORT YOU TO YOUR ROOM.
YOU KNOW, WHEN I FIRST CAME TO SUGUK... I THOUGHT YOU WERE HABAEK.
IF YOU *WERE* HABAEK, THINGS WOULD HAVE BEEN EASIER...
WHAT ABOUT *NOW?*
HWOOSH FUOO

KRNN
HUYE?

과앙
FWAPP
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

BECOMING A CLOUD,
BECOMING RAIN,
MISSING LOVE.

WOOSH
WSHAA
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
THA-THUMP
THA-THUMP
I THINK MUI BELIEVES THAT YOU ARE THE REINCARNATION OF NAKBIN.
THA-THUMP

MUI-NIM.
I'M ASKING YOU...WHAT ARE YOU DOING.
.....
WOOSH
WSHAA

FWAP
STOP IT!
WHAT DID HUYE DO? WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
STAY OUT OF IT.

FLINCH
.....
IT'S LATE. I'LL TAKE SOAH TO HER ROOM, NOW.

MUI MUST HAVE BEEN UPSET...
IT'S STUPID TO WORRY ABOUT HIM, EVEN AFTER ALL THAT HE SAID TO ME...

FOR SOME REASON, IT'S SO COMFORTABLE BEING WITH HUYE.
IF HUYE WERE HABAEK...
...I WOULD NEVER HAVE FELT SO BROKEN-HEARTED...

WHEN I FIRST CAME TO SUGUK, I THOUGHT YOU WERE HABAEK.
THAT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE... IN MY HEART... I WANTED YOU TO BE HABAEK.
BUT NOW... I WISH THAT *MUI* COULD BE HABAEK.
THINKING ALL THESE THINGS... JUST MEANS THAT I'M A BAD PERSON, RIGHT?

YOU'RE NOT A BAD PERSON AT ALL...BUT...
...I THINK YOU'D BETTER KEEP THIS CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE TWO OF US.

KTAK
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
FWSH
YOU'RE LATE. WERE YOU WITH HUYE ALL THIS TIME?
?!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE SO CLOSE TO HUYE, BUT YOU BETTER NOT HANG AROUND WITH HIM ANYMORE.
WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO KEEP OTHER PEOPLE UNDER YOUR THUMB? ONCE YOU SEEMED KIND, BUT SUDDENLY YOU'VE BEEN SO MEAN...
I DON'T KNOW WHO'S THE REAL YOU.

WHAT A CHATTY HUMAN! CAN'T YOU JUST BE OBEDIENT?
WHAT?!
NO ONE COULD HAVE ANY REASON TO BE OBEDIENT TO YOU! AND I'M NOT YOUR SERVANT!
FWAP
THUMP
THA-THUMP

IT'S MY ORDER.
THA-THUMP
TRUST ME.
THA-THUMP
WSHAAA

ARE YOU LEFT ALONE AGAIN, HUYE? POOR THING...
!!
쏴아아아
FWOOOSH
DON'T FEEL SO LONELY.
YOU KNOW IT, TOO...
...THAT THEY CAN NEVER BE HAPPY.

LET'S LET THEM ENJOY THEMSELVES FOR A LITTLE WHILE...
...AND LEAVE THE BEST PART FOR THE END.
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE MUI'S FACE LATER.

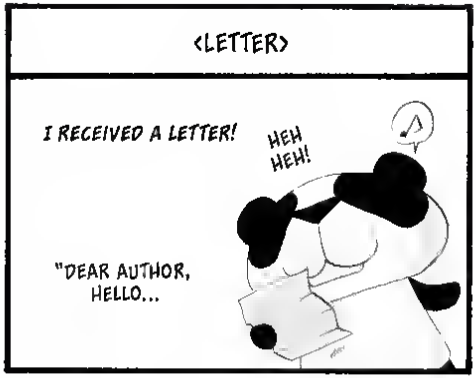
WHAT WILL HAPPEN, WHEN HE FINDS OUT THAT NAKBIN IS REALLY ALIVE?

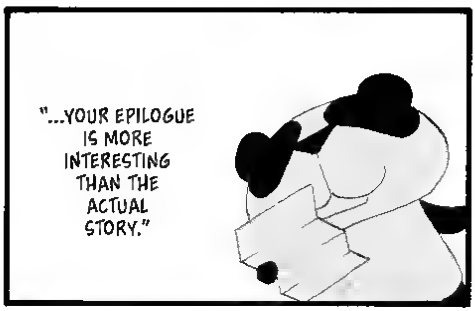
BRIDE of the WATER GOD

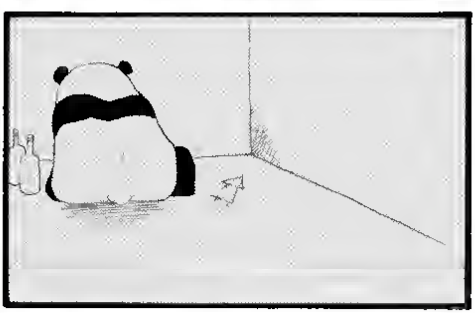
EPILOGUE . . .

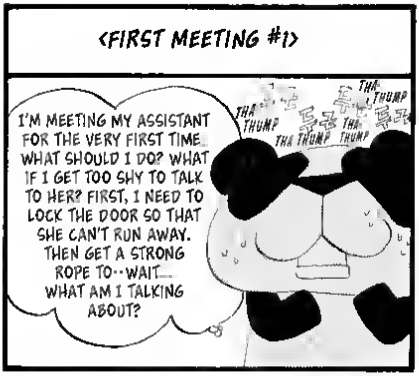
MI-GAENG'S CLOSING CARTOONS #1

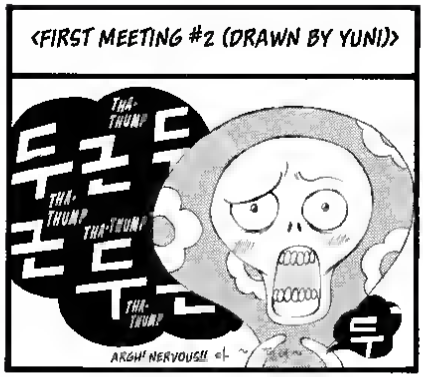
("MI-GAENG" IS MI-KYUNG YUN'S NICKNAME)

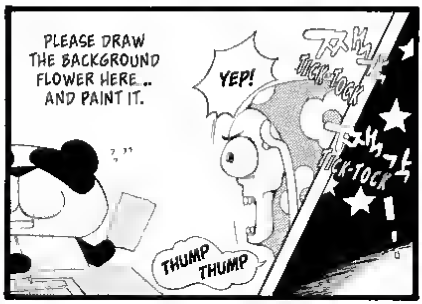


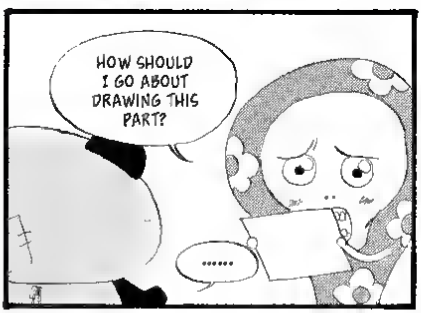


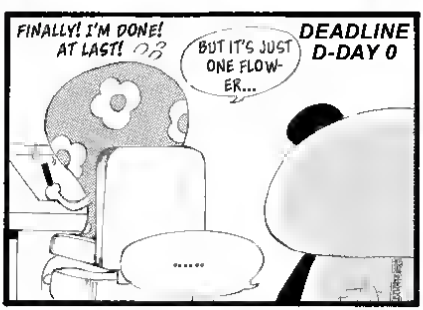



<FIRST MEETING #1>
I'M MEETING MY ASSISTANT FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME. WHAT SHOULD I DO? WHAT IF I GET TOO SHY TO TALK TO HER? FIRST, I NEED TO LOCK THE DOOR SO THAT SHE CAN'T RUN AWAY. THEN GET A STRONG ROPE TO··WAIT... WHAT AM I TALKING ABOUT?
THA-THUMP
THA-THUMP
THA-THUMP
THA-THUMP
THA-THUMP



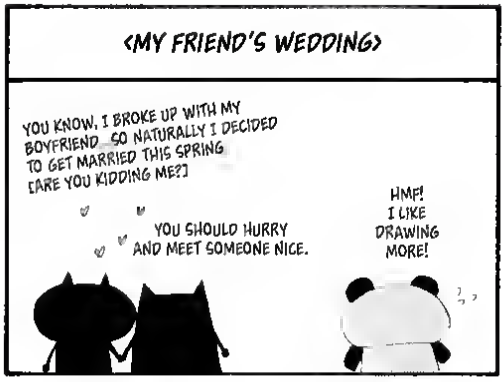




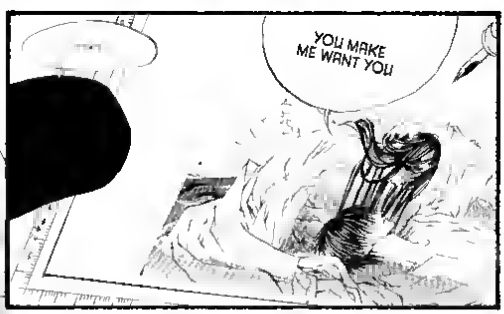


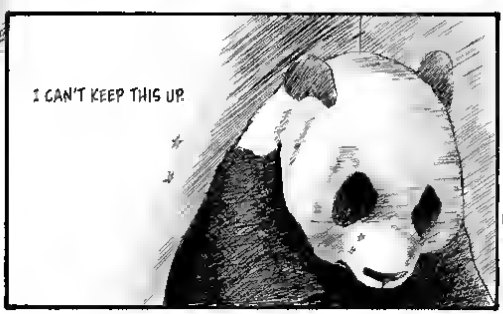
YUNI, SORRY FOR MY FREQUENTLY CURSED HAND!

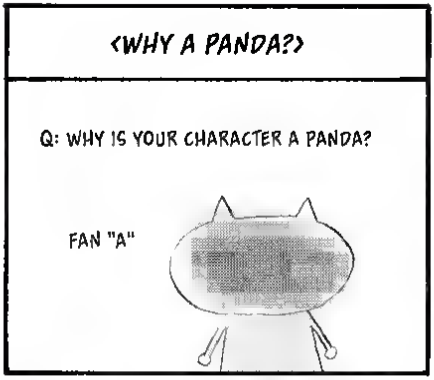
MI-GAENG'S CLOSING CARTOONS #2

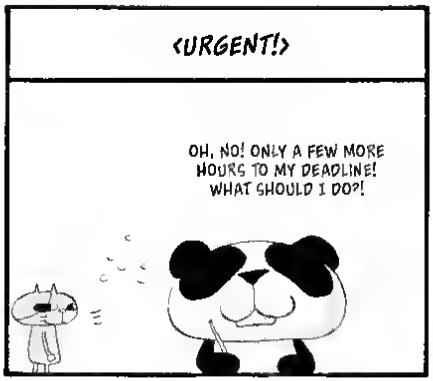


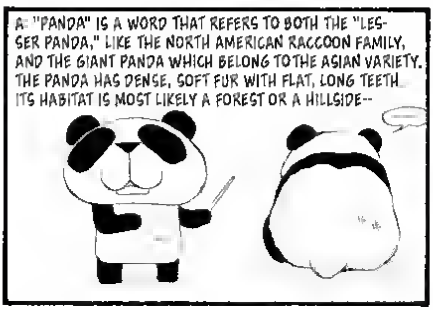
(THIS CARTOON IS DRAWN BY A PANDA BEAR.)



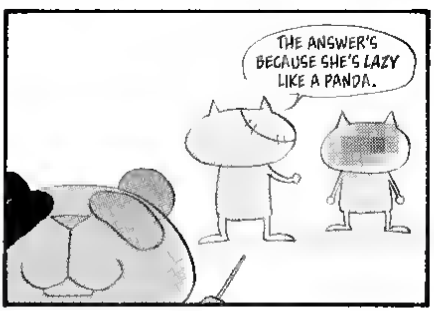


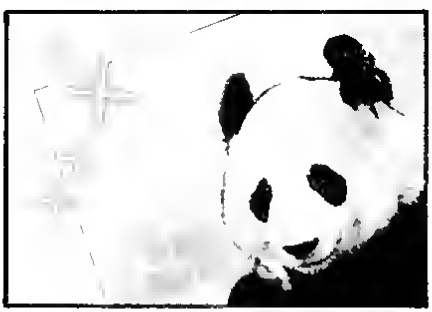

<WHY A PANDA?>
Q: WHY IS YOUR CHARACTER A PANDA?
FAN "A"

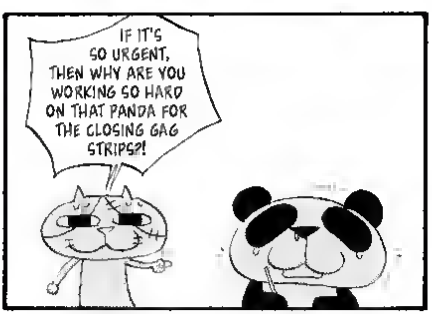

<URGENT!>
OH, NO! ONLY A FEW MORE HOURS TO MY DEADLINE! WHAT SHOULD I DO?!


A: "PANDA" IS A WORD THAT REFERS TO BOTH THE "LESSER PANDA," LIKE THE NORTH AMERICAN RACCOON FAMILY, AND THE GIANT PANDA WHICH BELONG TO THE ASIAN VARIETY. THE PANDA HAS DENSE, SOFT FUR WITH FLAT, LONG TEETH. ITS HABITAT IS MOST LIKELY A FOREST OR A HILLSIDE--

FWISH
HK! HK!


THE ANSWER'S BECAUSE SHE'S LAZY LIKE A PANDA.




IF IT'S SO URGENT, THEN WHY ARE YOU WORKING SO HARD ON THAT PANDA FOR THE CLOSING GAG STRIPS?!

Special Notes

★ THE STORY OF GYEONWU AND JIKNYEO ★

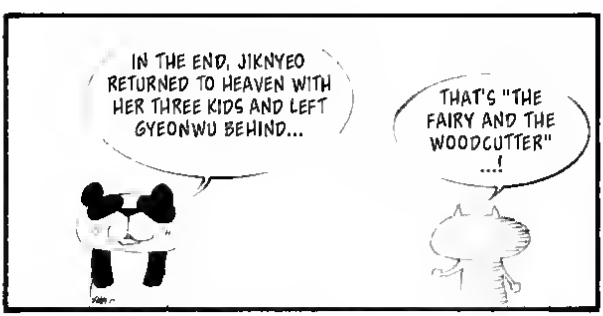
WE MENTION THE STORY OF GYEONWU AND JIKNYEO IN ***BRIDE OF THE WATER GOD***, ALONG WITH THE NAME "DONG-YOUNG." THE DONG-YOUNG IN ***BRIDE OF THE WATER GOD*** WAS A CHARACTER WHO HAD TO BE A VICTIM IN THE LOVE MATCH BETWEEN HABAEK AND SOAH. "DONG-YOUNG" IS SOMETIMES USED AS AN ALTERNATE NAME FOR THE LOVER GYEONWU.

THERE'S AN OLD TALE CALLED "THE STORY OF FILIAL DONG-YOUNG," AND SINCE GYEONWU'S NAME IS INTERCHANGEABLE WITH DONG-YOUNG'S, IT COULD BE TURNED INTO "THE STORY OF FILIAL GYEONWU." THIS TALE WAS ORIGINALLY CREATED BECAUSE ***FILIAL PIETY*** WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT VIRTUE AT THAT TIME. IN THE DONG-YOUNG TALE, JIKNYEO WEAVES AND WORKS TO PAY OFF DONG-YOUNG'S DEBT AND THEN RETURNS TO HEAVEN, AND DONG-YOUNG ENDS UP IN A SIMILAR SITUATION.

★ *BRIDE OF THE WATER GOD* BONUS NOTES ★

WHILE CREATING THIS VOLUME, UNINTENTIONALLY, HABAEK WORE EXTRA LAYERS OF CLOTHING, WHILE MUI BARELY WORE A THREAD.
WHY IS THAT?
FROM NOW ON, I'LL TRY TO PUT HABAEK IN SOME RAGS TO MAKE THINGS FAIR...

(GETTING OFF TOPIC... ;SWEAT; ;SWEAT;)



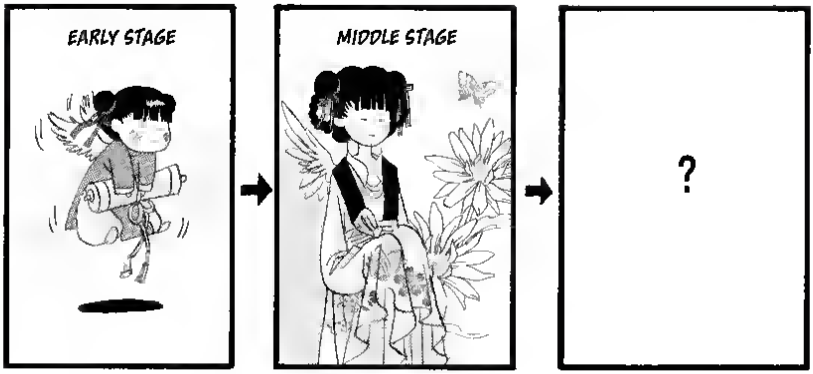
★ *BRIDE OF THE WATER GOD* BONUS NOTES II ★

THE GODDESS MURA HAS EYES THAT ARE TWO DIFFERENT COLORS. SOMETIMES, WHEN I'M HURRYING TO MEET A DEADLINE, I FORGET MURA'S FACIAL DESIGN, AND MY EDITOR HAS TO DRAW CORRECTIONS ONTO THE FILM. THEREFORE, I FIND IT VERY BOTHERSOME TO DRAW MURA, BUT I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT THAT STORY LATER, SINCE I'M TOO BUSY NOW...

(AND WHAT AM I TALKING ABOUT?)

WELL, "THE FAIRY AND THE WOODCUTTER" IS *ALSO* DERIVED FROM "THE STORY OF GYEONWU AND JIKNYEO."

★ <HISTORY OF THE CHEONG-JO> ★



ONE OF THE KEY IDEAS BEHIND THE CHEONG-JO IS
THAT SHE GROWS UP FAST BECAUSE SHE IS REALLY A BIRD,
BUT THAT MIDDLE FACE IS FRIGHTENINGLY SIMILAR TO THE FIRST.
HOW WOULD SHE CHANGE AT THE END?

THANKS TO "MO" FROM THE DAUM FAN CAFÉ FOR NOTICING THIS.

HABAEK FROM ***BRIDE OF THE WATER GOD*** AND HAMIN FROM ***RAILROAD*** BOTH HAVE THE SAME FAMILY NAME. "HA." THEY HAVE TOTALLY OPPOSITE PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS, BUT THEY'RE BOTH LEAD CHARACTERS AND HAVE BLACK HAIR. I DREW THIS IMAGE WONDERING HOW IT'D BE TO HAVE THEM BOTH STAR IN THE SAME CARTOON.

..GIVES ME A FUNNY FEELING .. AND I MAKE A FACE, FOR SOME REASON..

CONDUCTOR HAMIN

"Now I am once again passing through a similar period of struggle and dejection, of patience and impatience, of hope and despair. But I have to struggle on and, well, in good time I shall understand watercolours better. If it were easy, there would be no pleasure in it. And ditto, ditto with painting."
—excerpt from Vincent Van Gogh's letters

It is already the fourth volume of *Bride of the Water God*. I would have never been able to make it by myself. I'd like to say what I've been too shy to say here before: Thank you.

Mi-Kyung Yun

CREATOR PROFILE

Born on October 14, 1980. Majored in Animation at Mokwon University.

Received the silver medal for Seoul Media Group's "Shin-in-gong-mo-jeon" ("New Artist Debut Competition") for *Na-eu Ji-gu Bang-moon-gi* (*The Journey of My Earth Visit*) in 2003.

Received a "Shin-in-sang" ("Best New Artist") award from the Dokja-manhwa-daesang organization for *Railroad* in 2004.

Currently publishing *Bride of the Water God* serially in the Korean comics magazine *Wink*.

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윤미경

Mi-Kyung Yun

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BRIDE of the WATER GOD

After being driven from her husband Habaek's magical kingdom, Soah's life back on Earth has been pretty miserable. With Haback's mother and some of his supposed friends conspiring against him, will the cursed Water God finally come to his senses and rescue Soah? Dark Horse Manhwa's engrossing and mysterious fantasy-romance series returns, and writer/artist Mi-Kyung Yun brings more of Habaek's colorful peers to the forefront. Humor, drama, and a bit of horror combine in this story, as Soah tries to uncover the truth behind her strange husband's curse and his previous wife's early, brutal demise. Complicating everything, Habaek—her powerful, moody husband—must live in the form of a little boy during the day, returning to his true adult body at night. Soah's inner strength and determination saved her village from drought and famine in previous volumes—now she must pit her guts and guile against the unpredictable elemental gods that fill Mi-Kyung Yun's enchanting series.

Bride of the Water God, with its romantic storyline and elaborate, breathtaking artwork, is one of Korea's top-selling *sunjeong* manhwa (similar to the *shojo* manga genre).

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DARK HORSE MANHWA

Bride of the Water God

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Julia Kwon Gombos

lettering

Andy Grossberg & Studio Cutie

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